

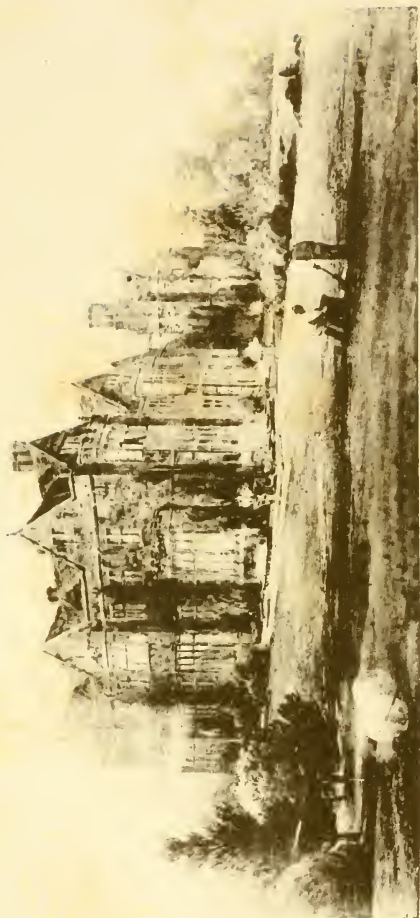
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SUMMERHILL, Kent, the Seat of William Woodgate, Esq.

A HISTORY OF THE
WOODGATES OF STONEWALL PARK
AND OF SUMMERHILL
IN KENT,

And their Connections,

BY

The Rev. GORDON WOODGATE, M.A. and
GILES MUSGRAVE GORDON WOODGATE.

“Sing, sing in praise of Men of Kent
So loyal, brave, and free ;
'Mongst Britain's race, if one surpass,
A Man of Kent is he.”

(Chorus from “The Brave Men of Kent.”)

WITH 20 ILLUSTRATIONS
AND INDEX.

PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION

BY

BALDING & MANSELL, WISBECH.

- 1910 -

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1193902

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Besides those whose names are above mentioned as donors of particular pictures, we are much indebted to the following subscribers who undertook to defray the cost of illustrations :—

Mr. Charles Woodgate (Natal Police), three illustrations ; Mrs. Edwin Woodgate, "Riverhill," Oxtou, one illustration ; and Miss Rose Woodgate, Eastbourne, one illustration ; also to Mrs. Woodgate, of Rochester, for obtaining the photographs of Swaylands and Summerhill, the original paintings of which are in her possession.

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INTRODUCTION.

It has been represented to us that Woodgates have never filled high offices of state, nor distinguished themselves in literature, in law, or in politics, and that consequently any publication of their history is not only unnecessary but almost presumptuous. When these objections were made, it had not perhaps been considered that a work of this nature might be valuable precisely because the Woodgates have never been more than plain country gentlemen, living on their own estates. History relates the actions of kings, statesmen, and generals: but when it is desired to learn the manner in which the landed classes and lesser orders of society lived, it is to such works as the present that one must turn, where it is recorded in their own words.

In editing these family letters, much has been allowed to remain which would have been excised had the book been intended for publication and not merely for private circulation among the family. The letters were written in the full intimacy of relationship, and the writers never for one moment dreamed that their letters would be laid before their descendants in this manner. Every allowance must therefore be made.

As to the propriety of reproducing private letters, we cannot do better than to express our opinion in the words of Miss Edgeworth.

"Next to biography written by the person himself," she observes, "his private letters afford the best means of obtaining an insight into character. But some readers, and those whose opinion is most honourable, will recoil with horror at the idea of publishing letters . . . Without need of my assertions, every reader of discernment will at once perceive that these letters are not manufactured for the public, but written in the fulness of the heart and in the careless ease of private correspondence. Such are the only letters worth seeing, yet how few of such are fit to meet the public eye! There can scarcely be better proof of any man's consistency and singleheartedness than that his best friends can dare to lay before the public his *really* private correspondence. Considered in this light, I trust that in producing my father's letters to various persons, of different and distant periods of his life, I shall do honour to his memory with all impartial judges."

The old spelling of the letters has been retained, but it was found necessary from considerations of space, to excise a large number of passages relating to trivial or conventional matters, such as the usual messages at the end of a letter, enquiries after health, apologies for not writing sooner, and such like, which are to be found in present day letters—passages not uninteresting in themselves, but forbidden insertion by exigencies of space and constant repetitions. It is interesting to recognise the same traits of character brought out in the living descendants of the writers.

It is to be observed that the letters, however old, are in one sense singularly up-to-date. We learn, for example, that in 1826 "Mr. Nouaille was gratified by an exhibition of fossils and minerals, the chief merit of which consisted in their being brought from the North Pole and presented by Captain Parry." This forcibly reminds us of Captain Peary, and a controversy which has agitated scientists and the public for weeks. Again, Mrs. Brisco's letter on the Budget on p. 465 might have been written last November, instead of in the year 1852; and we are all familiar with the opinion, advanced by the Nouailles, that their "ruin was due to Free Trade."

We desire to point out that our compilations might never have seen the light of day but for the accession of these letters. It was impossible in a single volume to attempt to treat the ancient and modern history alike exhaustively without spoiling both; the former has therefore been sacrificed to the latter, and little more than an outline of the earlier history has been attempted, though our researches were in their way considerable. We have not attempted to bring the work up to date, except to a certain extent by means of the genealogical tables. To endeavour to portray the later history of the family is far too delicate a task for us to essay, and we might add that the result would (in our opinion) be far less interesting than the old letters and correspondence which would be thereby displaced. The different members of the family, however, may very well continue the records of their own branches in the blank pages which have been inserted at the end for that purpose.

Finally we desire to thank the family for the support they have given us. We had hoped to defray the expenses of printing from the subscriptions, and were sorry to find that we had not a sufficient number of subscribers to enable us to do so, with the result that there is a deficiency. Our first idea was to delay printing until the required number of subscribers was obtained, but some of our older supporters (and we ourselves) were so anxious to see the work completed that we decided not to wait, but to print at once and trust to our losses being subsequently made good.

We are especially indebted to Mr. Arthur Boissier, of Penshurst, and Mrs. George Woodgate, of Pembury, and the Revd. W. J. Rudge, of Ardnave, Basset, for the loan of correspondence, and desire to express our thanks to all those who have in any way assisted us. Foremost among these was the late Miss Ellen Woodgate, of Ravenscourt Park, London, to whose sympathy and advice we owe a debt which can never, alas! be repaid. We are glad to feel that though she has not lived to see these pages in type, the perusal of the greater part of them in manuscript afforded her some gratification in her last days. We commit this work to our readers, trusting to their sympathy to excuse the many inevitable errors and imperfections which pressure of time and of other work must have brought about.

GORDON WOODGATE.

GILES M. GORDON WOODGATE

Tydd St. Giles' Rectory,
Cambridgeshire,
January, 1910.



CHAPTER I.

ORIGIN AND EARLY ANCESTORS.

I.

The pedigree of the Woodgates in *Burke's Landed Gentry* is prefaced with the remark that "the family is an old Kentish one, said to be established there since the twelfth century." However this may be, or whatever Burke's authority, it certainly is in accordance with the traditions of the family which is stated to be of Saxon ancestry.

But traditions, however interesting, yield in value to documentary evidence of which there is no lack. In the reign of Edward I (1271) there were, at one and the same time, Woodgates in Kent; in Warwickshire; a little later they are found in Buckinghamshire; much earlier (1190) in Dorsetshire; in Middlesex and London; in Essex; and at a very early period in Sussex. The list is by no means exhaustive, but is sufficiently long to show the futility of recording the ancestry of every chance Woodgate as a valuable piece of family history, when probably his family and that of the Woodgates of Summerhill had no common ancestor.

The Essex Woodgates, for example, have a pedigree extending back about two hundred and fifty years which with little difficulty might have been carried back much further. They had large families. This branch alone will therefore account for many Woodgates now living; the coat armour, too, is the same as that of the Kentish family (though the crest differs). We shall therefore confine ourselves to Kent and Sussex.

The origin of the name itself should inform us that those who bear it are likely to be numerous. Woodgates evidently dwelt by the gate or hatch leading into one of the numerous woods or deer-forests. John-at-the-Woodgate would be such a man's description, and when surnames came in, Woodgate would be the one adopted. There were many atte Woodgate's (atte=at the), de Woodgate's, de la Woodgate's, and so on. The families of Yates, by their number, testify to the frequency of the "yate," the old provincialism for gate. It is interesting, too, to read of the abbey of Tarente, founded by the Bishop of Durham and endowed by William de Wodegate with his manor of Wodegate. The prior of Bromore adds to it the advowson of the Church of St. Nicholas Woodgate; and Kainel de Wodegate grants lands there (1242).

The name itself is spelt in every conceivable manner, Wodegate, Wodgate, Wudgate, Odgate, Wudigate, Wudyate, Wodehyate, Wouldgate, Wolgate, Woldgate, Wodegat, are but a few; literary curiosity could extend the list almost indefinitely.

The origin of the family was borne in mind when the arms were chosen. The squirrel—the denizen of the wood—the acorns outlined against the azure of the chevron, the blue sky; the livery colour, green, like that of the foliage; what could have been more appropriate?

II.

The earlier history of the Kentish family is somewhat vague, though many documents exist to elucidate it. During the time that was spent in the collection and arrangement of materials for this work, the examination of the older records was sacrificed to that of more modern ones, and our information for this period is very inadequate. Yet we have no doubt whatever but that anyone gifted with leisure and patience could construct, without any great difficulty, a connected pedigree almost as far back as the Conquest. Though our researches for this period were slight, we must make some use of the material that was obtained.

Early 30s integration!

... of the ...
... of the ...
... of the ...

15.75	17.00	18.25	19.50	20.75	22.00	23.25	24.50	25.75	27.00	28.25	29.50	30.75	32.00	33.25	34.50	35.75	37.00	38.25	39.50	40.75	42.00	43.25	44.50	45.75	47.00	48.25	49.50	50.75	52.00	53.25	54.50	55.75	57.00	58.25	59.50	60.75	62.00	63.25	64.50	65.75	67.00	68.25	69.50	70.75	72.00	73.25	74.50	75.75	77.00	78.25	79.50	80.75	82.00	83.25	84.50	85.75	87.00	88.25	89.50	90.75	92.00	93.25	94.50	95.75	97.00	98.25	99.50	100.75	102.00	103.25	104.50	105.75	107.00	108.25	109.50	110.75	112.00	113.25	114.50	115.75	117.00	118.25	119.50	120.75	122.00	123.25	124.50	125.75	127.00	128.25	129.50	130.75	132.00	133.25	134.50	135.75	137.00	138.25	139.50	140.75	142.00	143.25	144.50	145.75	147.00	148.25	149.50	150.75	152.00	153.25	154.50	155.75	157.00	158.25	159.50	160.75	162.00	163.25	164.50	165.75	167.00	168.25	169.50	170.75	172.00	173.25	174.50	175.75	177.00	178.25	179.50	180.75	182.00	183.25	184.50	185.75	187.00	188.25	189.50	190.75	192.00	193.25	194.50	195.75	197.00	198.25	199.50	200.75	202.00	203.25	204.50	205.75	207.00	208.25	209.50	210.75	212.00	213.25	214.50	215.75	217.00	218.25	219.50	220.75	222.00	223.25	224.50	225.75	227.00	228.25	229.50	230.75	232.00	233.25	234.50	235.75	237.00	238.25	239.50	240.75	242.00	243.25	244.50	245.75	247.00	248.25	249.50	250.75	252.00	253.25	254.50	255.75	257.00	258.25	259.50	260.75	262.00	263.25	264.50	265.75	267.00	268.25	269.50	270.75	272.00	273.25	274.50	275.75	277.00	278.25	279.50	280.75	282.00	283.25	284.50	285.75	287.00	288.25	289.50	290.75	292.00	293.25	294.50	295.75	297.00	298.25	299.50	300.75	302.00	303.25	304.50	305.75	307.00	308.25	309.50	310.75	312.00	313.25	314.50	315.75	317.00	318.25	319.50	320.75	322.00	323.25	324.50	325.75	327.00	328.25	329.50	330.75	332.00	333.25	334.50	335.75	337.00	338.25	339.50	340.75	342.00	343.25	344.50	345.75	347.00	348.25	349.50	350.75	352.00	353.25	354.50	355.75	357.00	358.25	359.50	360.75	362.00	363.25	364.50	365.75	367.00	368.25	369.50	370.75	372.00	373.25	374.50	375.75	377.00	378.25	379.50	380.75	382.00	383.25	384.50	385.75	387.00	388.25	389.50	390.75	392.00	393.25	394.50	395.75	397.00	398.25	399.50	400.75	402.00	403.25	404.50	405.75	407.00	408.25	409.50	410.75	412.00	413.25	414.50	415.75	417.00	418.25	419.50	420.75	422.00	423.25	424.50	425.75	427.00	428.25	429.50	430.75	432.00	433.25	434.50	435.75	437.00	438.25	439.50	440.75	442.00	443.25	444.50	445.75	447.00	4
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168. 1830. 27 Oct. 1830. 27 Oct. 1830. 27 Oct. 1830.

[illegible]

John
Jack C

John Woodgate, jun., of Chidingstone in 1450.

William Woodgate
of Chidingstone,
living 1488; bur.
in Parish Church.

John Wood-
gate of Chid-
ingstone,
living 1523.

Thomas
Wickende
will dated
living 1523

John Woodgate
Edenbridge;
ur. there. Will
proved 1523.

Joan . . .
executrix
of will.

William Wood-
gate of Wood-
gate, Chiding-
stone, steward of
the lands of the
Duke of Buck-
ingham. Will
dated 1543.

Thomas Wood-
gate of Trug-
gers, Chiding-
stone, bur. at
Chidingstone 8
Feb. 1566.

Elizabeth
...., bur.
at Chid-
ingstone
31 July
1574.

**Woodgates of Stone-
wall, Chidingstone.
(See Sheet No. III.)**

Wood-
gate, dead
1540.

Martin
Wood-
gate of
Eden-
bridge,
bur.
there 25
April
1558.

William
Wood-
gate of
Rivers-
dale
Heath,
Chiding-
stone,
living
1557.

Joan.

John Woodgate
of Cowden and
Edenbridge.
Will dated 1560.

Joan

Christopher Woodgate
of Woodgate, Chiding-
stone; bur. at Chiding-
stone 6 Dec. 1570.

Joan,
Edenb.
Feb. 14

John Woodgate of
Chidingstone; bur.
12 June 1620. Will
proved 1620.

Elizabeth
...., bur.
27 Oct.
1632.

Agnes, mar. at
Cowden, 3 July
1575, John
Ford. (N.B.—
Fords lived at
Hepbrooke.)

Joan.

Julian,
mar. at
Hadlow,
13 Sept.
1573,
Steven
Larken.

William
Wood-
gate.

Christo-
pher
Wood-
gate.

He-
Wood
gate d
Ighth
living
1588.

Hester, bap.
12 April
1586; living
1617.

Elizabeth,
bap. 28 Feb.
1585.

Elizabeth
at Igh
July 1

Sarah, bap. 7 Aug.
1586; bur. 30 Dec.
1601.

Elizabeth, bap. 10
Aug. 1589; living
1617.

N.B.—In a few instances the descents in probabilities.

The *Men of Kent* (which is not the same as Kentishmen, who are regarded by the former as being infinitely less favoured than themselves) met William the Conqueror at Swanscomb, and so impressed him by their resolute bearing and martial ardour that he was glad to conclude terms of peace with them by allowing them to retain all their ancient customs, including gavelkind. One result is that our ancestors were all free men.

In the year 10 Edward I (1281) we learn from the *Abbreviatio Placitorum* that a suit was instituted by Henry de Woodgate against William de Stubbesden. Radus (Ralph) de Woodgate, father of Henry, had contracted to settle certain lands at Sheldwich and Throwley to advance his son in marriage with the daughter of William de Stubbesden. The marriage was duly celebrated, Ralph conveyed the lands to William de Stubbesden on the understanding that he should enfeoff Henry, and soon afterwards died. William, so far from adhering to the arrangement, sold the lands to Guncelinus de Badlesmere and pocketed the proceeds. The matter was brought before Stephen de Pencester (Penshurst), a man of great consequence; and subsequently the whole matter was thrashed out in the Courts.

Now these *Woodgates* of Sheldwich and Throwley were succeeded about two hundred years later by *Wolgates* of Sheldwich and Throwley, in which family Ralph is a name that continually recurs. Wolgate was sometimes written Woodgate, Wouldgate, etc., but the "l" generally appeared in the name.

Hasted has some information on the subject. Referring to Wilgate Green, at Throwley, he says:—"There was a family named Wolgate, from whose residence at Throwley this green seems to have taken its name of Wolgate or Wilgate Green. After they had remained here for some generations, they ended in a daughter; for Mr. Ralph Wolgate, dying in 1642, his daughter Anne married Mr. William Gennery, and entitled him to her father's possessions here, including Posiers in Borden and other parts of the country." (Posiers was a manor acquired by the Wolgates about the time of Henry VIII. Other branches of this family continued to exist after Ralph's death).

Hasted's note on Badlesmere is also significant. He says that by the inquisition taken of the possessions of Bartholomew de Badlesmere in 2 Edward III (1328), it was found that he was as that time seised of lands at Sheldwich apud le Woodgate, as was Margery his widow at her death three years later.

In 1382, one hundred years after the marriage of Henry de Woodgate, a John Wodegate was living. He settled in Penshurst, and founded a family which established itself in the south west corner of Kent in a neighbourhood of which Chidingstone may be termed the centre, consisting of that parish, Hever, Edenbridge, Penshurst, and Cowden. These were the immediate ancestors of the Woodgates of Stonewall and Summerhill, which may be termed the senior branch.

No traces of Woodgates in the Chidingstone area can be discovered prior to the before mentioned John Woodgate, of Penshurst; he must have migrated there from some other locality, possibly from Throwley.

III.

John Woodgate of Penshurst, in 1435 hired lands called Hawden Mead and 60 acres of pasture, for which he seems to have paid £20 19 8. He is mentioned again as being feoffee, otherwise trustee, with Robert Darkynholle and John Darkynholle of Otford and John Reme of Tonbridge, of lands in Leigh, Tonbridge, Penshurst, and Chidingstone, under a deed dated 20th January, 1433.

He left two sons, John of Chidingstone and William of Edenbridge. Both, with their sons, took part in the great Kentish rising under Jack Cade in 1450. "This was not a rabble," says Furley, "but an organised rising of the middle-classes, as well as those of more humble calling. One knight, eighteen esquires,

Early Pedigrees of Chidlingstone.

SHEET No. I.

John Woodgate of Kearsurst, the dau. of Walter Duckynhol of Peashurst and Agnes
his wife, dau. of Henry Slighter of Salmons
died in 1457.

John Woodgate sen., of Chidlingstone, served with
Jack Cade in 1450; "late deceased" in 1459.

William Woodgate of Eatenbridge
served with Jack Cade in 1450.

John Woodgate, jun., of Chidlingstone, served with Jack Cade in 1450; died about 1476.

John Woodgate of Eatenbridge, served with Jack Cade in 1450.

William Woodgate
of Chidlingstone,
living 1488; bur.
in Parish Church.

John Woodgate, sister of Robert
Wickenden of Gower (this
marriage),
living 1520.
will dated 81 Dec. 1520;
living 1525.

Walter Woodgate, son of
gate of Peashurst
about 1530.
1545.

John Woodgate, son of
of Eatenbridge; executed
bur. there. Will
proved 1523.

William Woodgate
gate of W.
above Chidling-
stone, steward of
the lands of the
Duke of Beuk.
living 1548.

Thomas Woodgate, son of
gate of "Trug" bur.
gate, Chidling- at Chid-
stone, bur. at Ingens
Chidlingstone 8 at July
Feb. 1600 1574

Woodgate of Stone-
wall, Chidlingstone.
(See Sheet No. III.)

Woodgate of
Hever.

Bridge, son of
bur. at
Peashurst
Nov. 1584
July 1600.
(See Sheet
No. II.)

Mary, living 1584.

John Woodgate, son of
gate of Peashurst
1545.
1571-2.
1545.

John Woodgate, son of
gate of Peashurst
1545.
1571-2.
1545.

John Woodgate, son of
gate of Peashurst
1545.
1571-2.
1545.

Christopher Woodgate
of Woodgate, Chidling-
stone 6 Dec. 1370.

John, mar. of John
gate of Peashurst
Feb. 1590-93.

Martin Woodgate
of Eatenbridge;
bur. there Sept.
1545.

John Woodgate of Elizabeth
Chidlingstone; bur. 27 Oct.
12 June 1620 Will
proved 1620. 1622.

Agnes, mar. at
Covenor, 3 July
1575. John
Woodgate, son of
gate of Peashurst
1545.
1571-2.
1545.

John, William
mar. at Wood-
gate.
1588.

Edward Woodgate, son of
gate of Peashurst
1545.
1571-2.
1545.

John Woodgate, son of
gate of Peashurst
1545.
1571-2.
1545.

Elizabeth, bur.
at Igham 12
July 1587.

N.B.—In a few instances the descents in this pedigree are at present incapable of strict proof, but the majority can be proved, and the others are supported by strong probabilities.

The *Men of Kent* (which is not the same as Kentishmen, who are regarded by the former as being infinitely less favoured than themselves) met William the Conqueror at Swanscomb, and so impressed him by their resolute bearing and martial ardour that he was glad to conclude terms of peace with them by allowing them to retain all their ancient customs, including gavelkind. One result is that our ancestors were all free men.

In the year 10 Edward I (1281) we learn from the *Abbreviatio Placitorum* that a suit was instituted by Henry de Woodgate against William de Stubbesden. Radus (Ralph) de Woodgate, father of Henry, had contracted to settle certain lands at Sheldwich and Throwley to advance his son in marriage with the daughter of William de Stubbesden. The marriage was duly celebrated, Ralph conveyed the lands to William de Stubbesden on the understanding that he should enfeof Henry, and soon afterwards died. William, so far from adhering to the arrangement, sold the lands to Guncelinus de Badlesmere and pocketed the proceeds. The matter was brought before Stephen de Pencester (Penshurst), a man of great consequence; and subsequently the whole matter was thrashed out in the Courts.

Now these *Woodgates* of Sheldwich and Throwley were succeeded about two hundred years later by *Wolgates* of Sheldwich and Throwley, in which family Ralph is a name that continually recurs. Wolgate was sometimes written Woodgate, Wouldgate, etc., but the "l" generally appeared in the name.

Hasted has some information on the subject. Referring to Wilgate Green, at Throwley, he says:—"There was a family named Wolgate, from whose residence at Throwley this green seems to have taken its name of Wolgate or Wilgate Green. After they had remained here for some generations, they ended in a daughter; for Mr. Ralph Wolgate, dying in 1642, his daughter Anne married Mr. William Gennery, and entitled him to her father's possessions here, including Posiers in Borden and other parts of the country." (Posiers was a manor acquired by the Wolgates about the time of Henry VIII. Other branches of this family continued to exist after Ralph's death).

Hasted's note on Badlesmere is also significant. He says that by the inquisition taken of the possessions of Bartholomew de Badlesmere in 2 Edward III (1328), it was found that he was as that time seised of lands at Sheldwich apud le Woodgate, as was Margery his widow at her death three years later.

In 1382, one hundred years after the marriage of Henry de Woodgate, a John Wodegate was living. He settled in Penshurst, and founded a family which established itself in the south west corner of Kent in a neighbourhood of which Chidingstone may be termed the centre, consisting of that parish, Hever, Edenbridge, Penshurst, and Cowden. These were the immediate ancestors of the Woodgates of Stonewall and Summerhill, which may be termed the senior branch.

No traces of Woodgates in the Chidingstone area can be discovered prior to the before mentioned John Woodgate, of Penshurst; he must have migrated there from some other locality, possibly from Throwley.

III.

John Woodgate of Penshurst, in 1435 hired lands called Hawden Mead and 60 acres of pasture, for which he seems to have paid £20 19 8. He is mentioned again as being feoffee, otherwise trustee, with Robert Darkynhol and John Darkynhol of Otford and John Reme of Tonbridge, of lands in Leigh, Tonbridge, Penshurst, and Chidingstone, under a deed dated 20th January, 1433.

He left two sons, John of Chidingstone and William of Edenbridge. Both, with their sons, took part in the great Kentish rising under Jack Cade in 1450. "This was not a rabble," says Furley, "but an organised rising of the middle-classes, as well as those of more humble calling. One knight, eighteen esquires,

seventy-four gentlemen, and five of the clergy of Kent took part in the rebellion, and the same may be said of Sussex, where the gentry would never have placed their lives in jeopardy among the following of a 'vagabond soldier.'" Furley gives a list of the four esquires and thirty-one gentlemen of Kent who obtained pardons.

The four esquires were William Hexstall of East Peckham, William Edward of Sandhurst, William Culpepper of Goudhurst, and John Fogge of Chart. Among the thirty-one gentlemen were William Woodgate of Edenbridge, Roger Twysden, John Roberts of Cranbrook, and two Culpeppers. The names of the three other Woodgates are to be found in a list of rebels.

John conveyed lands at Tonbridge and at Swaynislond, Penshurst, to Richard Hammond, of Penshurst, who conveyed them in 1459 to John Moyse, sen., of Penshurst. The two brothers, John and William, were trustees of Robert Ludwill, of Cowden, who by will dated 30th December, 1456, devised property in Cowden to Thomas Wickenden and Sarah his wife. John Woodgate left a son, John, who died about 1476, leaving four children.

John of Chidingstone, the second son, married Thomasin Wickenden, and was ancestor of the Woodgates of Hever. Walter, of Penshurst, the third son, and Julian his wife (circa 1460-1540) were ancestors of the Woodgates of Penshurst, Brenchley, Hadlow, Sundridge, and (we think) Hawkhurst. Alexandra, the daughter, married William Potkyn, Esq., of Sevenoaks, and was buried at Sevenoaks, in 1501, leaving issue William Potkyn of Sevenoaks and London (a).

William the eldest son owned lands called Babefeld, held of the Manor of Chidingstone, Burghersh, in 1477; and in 1490 was owner of the Leas, Greffield otherwise Grottfeld, and the Marle, all held of the same manor. In 1488 he was feoffee together with John Tebold of Seal, William Potkyn of Sevenoaks, William Smyth of Sundridge, and William Miller of Bromley of lands of William Graunger of Sundridge in trust for Richard Medehurst of Goldhill. In that year also he and John Ware of Chidingstone were feoffees of Walter Darknoll of Hawden together apparently with Richard Ashdowne. William Woodgate was buried in the Parish Church of Chidingstone.

He was succeeded in Babefeld in 1499 by his son William Woodgate of Woodgate, Chidingstone; Thomas, the other son, appears to have had the Leas, Grottfeld, and the Marle, as in 1629 they were vested in his descendant William Woodgate of Stonewall.

William, the son, was steward of the lands of the Duke of Buckingham, who held great possessions in Kent and elsewhere, including Penshurst Place and Tonbridge Castle. He was keeper of the Manor and Parks at Penshurst, for which he received £7 11 0 a year; he was also keeper of Kymbalton Castle, Hunts., for which he received a penny a day. Sir Henry Owen was keeper of the Postern Park, Tonbridge, for which he received £4 11 0 a year; and Sir Edward Guildford was keeper of the North Frith Park, for which he received the same sum (b).

It seems that William Woodgate was also keeper, modern "land-agent," of Halden Park; for on 18th April, 1540, Stephen Cowper writes to Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, "I and your farmer of Halden Park, William Woodgate, send you by the bearer seven couple of herynshawes of your own breeding there, all that are now ready. Let us know whether to send the rest of the herynshawes and shovellers." He requests to have the rangership of the park. Tenterden, 1540.

In 1509 it was presented by the homage of the Manor on the part of Frenden that William Woodgate had encroached upon the highway at Westcroft "in terr. de Curdeshouse."

(a) The arms of this family are "Argent, on a fess between three talbots, gules, three lozenges or."

(b) Survey of the lands of the Duke of Buckingham in 1523, soon after he was beheaded—P.R.O.

In 1512, on the death of John Alpheu, of Boar Place, Chidingstone, Lord of the Manors of Chidingstone Burghersh and Smythestreet temp Edward IV, it was found that he was seised jointly with William Woodgate, John Ware and another (who survived) of three messuages and 100a. arable, 26a. meadow, 250a. pasture, and 30a. of wood land in Chidingstone, Sundridge, Penshurst, and Chevening; and he was seised jointly with William Woodgate and John Ware of two messuages and 150a. of arable land in Cowden, held of the Manor of Otford, and two messuages and 100a. of arable, 40a. pasture, and 20a. wood land held of the abbot of St. Peter's. He was also seised of a messuage called *Chested* and 40a. of arable and 2½ acres of meadow land in Penshurst. He left two daughters and co-heiresses, one of whom married Sir Robert Read, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who possessed Boar Place in her right (c).

William Woodgate's will dated the last day of February, 1540, remains. He directs that he should be buried in Chidingstone Parish Church, next to his father, giving to the Church for his burial there 6/8. To be spent on his burial day, 53/4; and the same sum to the poor. For an honest priest to sing for his soul and his wife's soul, and for those that he was bound to pray for, for one year, £2 13 4, (three score masses). To Joan Ward, his late servant, a cow and 20d. To daughter Joan, 5 kyne and £3. To everyone of his godchildren, 8d. To son John, house and lands in Cowden some time Thomas Sedley's, and all other his pastures, meadows and woods wheresoever contained in a certain deed thereof made and sealed 24th March, 1538. Also to son John £10 of money, three pounds of silver, three kyne, two bullocks, two calves, half his swine, half his bedding, half his brass and half his pewter; and all his corn except 12 bushels of wheat and 12 bushels of oats. To son Christopher, the house called Woodgates and the lands thereto belonging in Chidingstone and Penshurst, and all other lands, pastures, woods, crofts and meadows whatsoever contained in a certain deed made and sealed 24th March, 1538. Also to son Christopher three silver pounds, 12 bushels of wheat, 12 bushels of oats, half his swine, half his bedding, half his brass and half his pewter. To servant Mary Ward, a cove and 20/- . To servant Julyand Hall, a cove and £3 6 8. Residue to sons John and Christopher, the executors. Supervisor William Beecher, who was to have 3/4.

(Signed), WILLIAM WOODGATE.

Witnesses: Sir John Doggett, parish priest, Thomas Basset and others.

Proved at London 15th March, 1540.

Christopher Woodgate was, we believe, unmarried. In 1540 it was presented by the homage on the part of Frenden that "Johes Elys insult fecit in Xoferum Woodgate cum pugno"; in other words, Christopher complains of assault and battery committed on him by John Ellis.

John Woodgate, from 1543-5 occupied his lands at Cowden, and eventually removed to Edenbridge (? Tonbridge), where he was living on 20th March, 1560, the date of his will. He wills to be buried at Edenbridge (? Tonbridge). To wife Johan, all goods and chattels. Also lands in Cowden for life, subject to maintenance of two youngest children; after her death, the lands to be sold and money divided

- (c) There are a number of deeds by which lands were conveyed to Sir Robert Read with William Woodgate and others as trustees, as in 1482 (lands late of William Hextall). Also in 1484, of lands at St. Mary Hoo, Kent, to Read; John Wode, Clerk; William Woodgate; and William Middleton, Citizen of London.

Again, in 1486, Margery Whetnall, Spinster, grants to Robert Rede, Serjeant at Law, William Bruyn, William Wodegate and Richard Cressy, her lands at Halstowe, and St. Mary Hoo, that belonged to her grandfather William Hextall, Esq., deceased.

In 1501 Robert Rede, Knt., one of the King's Justices, releases to William Wodegate, and John Ware all his right in lands at Orpington, Farnborough, and Hayes, to the use of himself and for the purposes of his will.

between his children. To daughters Agnes Woodgate, Johan Woodgate, and Julian Woodgate, £6 13 4 each. Residue of money to be divided between three sons William Christopher, and Henry at 21. Thomas Blundell and Henry Stubbsfield, executors.

Witnesses: William Charlton, William Sulling, Edmund Skinner, Harry Stubbsfield.

Proved at Rochester, 15th June, 1560. (xii., fo. 410).

Henry, the son, "of Item (Ightham), Kent, Gent," by deed dated 17th May, 1586, was appointed to the keepership of Eridge Park, Fant, with a full stock of deer in Sussex, by Elizabeth Lady Burgenny, who enjoyed the life estate in it. He was to have one stypend or yearly annuity of £10, together with the fedinge and keepinge for 20 bullockes in the pasture of the said park, two geldings, one corn mylle with all the proffits thereby growing, and also sufficient and necessary rooms and lodgings in the house of Eridge, fit and convenient for the said Henry Woodgate and Mary his wife to inhabit and dwell in, with sufficient allowance of housebote and fire-bote (fuel) for their maintenance and better provisions in housekeeping during the life of Lady Burgenny, who gave a bond in £200 to secure their enjoyment of it. Lady Burgenny subsequently married, about 1586, William Sydley, of Lincolns Inn.

The other son of William Woodgate, and the brother of William Woodgate the Steward of the Duke of Buckingham, was Thomas Woodgate of Truggers, Chidingstone, ancestor of the Woodgates of Stonewall and Summerhill. We must leave the consideration of his career to a later period.

A few words on the Edenbridge branch. We have the will of John Woodgate, of Edenbridge, grandson of the William Woodgate, who served under Jack Cade.

"In Dei Nom. Amen. In the yere of ouer Lorde God, 1523, the 14th day of June I John Wodgate, of Etonbreg, hole in mynde, make my testament in this manner, first I bequeth my soull to God; my bodie to be buryd in the church-yarde there. Also I bequeth to the high ault for my tithes forgotan 2d. It., [item] to by A aulter cloth for the high aulter 3/4. It., I will six masses be saide at my buryng daie and six at my month (?) daie. This is the last will of John Woogate that Marten and William my sonnes have my six oxen and all the harnes belonging thereto. It., I will that Joane my daughter have a cowe. The residue of my goods, [after] my detts and bequeth is paid, I gif holy to Joan my wif whome I make my executrix. Witness Thomas Stanford, senr., John Wodgate, Thomas Stanford, younger, John Stanford."

Proved at Malling, 30th June, 1523.

(Rochester, vii., fo. 276).

Martin the elder son was churchwarden at Edenbridge (cc), in 1535 and 1554, and was Bridgewarden in 1557. The bridgewardens received the rents of certain lands at Edenbridge, Brasted, and Chipsted, and laid them out in maintaining the bridge. The surplus was employed in a variety of ways as a kind of "Development Fund." *E.g.*, in a lottery (with consent of inhabitants); in healing Anne Stone's leg; in new casting and hanging the bell; in paving the bridge ("and a paving breakfast"); in maintaining a parishioner's daughter, with consent of whole parish; in buying hemp, to be put out to the poor to be spun; and in a fair bible for the parish (with the consent of the parish).

In 1542 Martin Woodgait, Thomas Stretfeld and Robert Fuller held the bridge-lands; in 1543 Martin held the same lands, at 5/- rent. In 1547 the lessees were Martin Woodgate and George Woodgate of Hever. In 1569 Martyn Woodgate, son of Martin, was Bridgewarden. There seem to have been two wardens, appointed annually.

(cc) Edenbridge is supposed to be named after the bridge there over the Eden. Streatfeild, however, considers that the name might have been taken from Edeln, the builder of the bridge.

Summary of Proceedings

11th Year

1. The first meeting of the year was held on the 1st of January, 1881, at 10 o'clock, A.M., in the hall of the University of Cambridge, England.

2. The meeting was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. John Addington Symonds, who delivered an address on the "Progress of the University of Cambridge during the last year."

3. The meeting then proceeded to the election of the members of the Senate, who were elected by the University of Cambridge.

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Bridge
Pensh
1560.

Edward Woodgate of Wrotham, deceased in 1589. = Elizabeth She remar. Reynes in 1589. = John Reynes of City of London. John Woodgate of Brenchley. = Elizabeth Woodgate of Penshurst, bur. 18 Feb. 1619. = Ann M. at Chidstone 6 bur. 4 July 1578.

Woodgates of Brenchley.

Anne, bap. 3 May 1577; bur. 4 May 1577. Edward Woodgate, bap. at Penshurst 24 Sep. 1578. Elizabeth, bur. 21 Feb. 1626. 1st wife. = Fortunatus Woodgate of Penshurst, bap. 4 Sep. 1580; bur. 5 Jan. 1645. Will. = Elizabeth, bur. 21 Sep. 1641. 2nd wife. Elizabeth, bap. at Chidingstone 6 July 1578.

Elizabeth, bur. in chancel at Penshurst 22 Aug. 1634. A dau. = Thomas Hemming. Fortunatus Woodgate of Penshurst, bap. 28 Feb. 1626; bur. 6 Aug. 1664. = Elizabeth, bur. in chancel at Penshurst 22 Aug. 1634.

Dorothy, bap. 9 Dec. 1645. Martha Tworle, mar. licence 1670; bur. 24 Sep. 1679. = Henry Woodgate of Penshurst, bap. 13 June 1647; bur. 4 June 1719. = Alice, bur. 27 April 1727. Elizabeth, bap. 27 Jan. 1648-9. = Fortunatus Woodgate, bap. 26 Feb. 1650; bur. 7 May 1658. Katharine, bap. 21 April 1652. = William, bur. 21 April 1652.

Elizabeth, bap. 18 June 1672. Lucy, bap. 5 Feb. 1673. = Webb. Walter Woodgate, bap. 27 Aug. 1675. = Henry Woodgate of Penshurst, bap. 27 April 1677. = John Woodgate, bap. 14 Mar. 1678; bur. 14 April 1687. Mary, bap. 15 Aug. 1686; mar. 17 Feb. 1709, Thomas Kennard of Tonbridge. Robert Woodgate, bap. 21 Dec. 1687. = Henry Woodgate, bap. 5 June 1690; bur. 10 Feb. 1746, unmar. Will. William, bap. 21 Dec. 1687. = Sarah, bur. 21 Dec. 1696.

Henry Webb. Ann.

William Woodgate, the other son of John, was living at Edenbridge in 1543 (Subsidy Roll) but in 1557, when he attested a deed, was living at Chidingstone; he was then at "Riversdale" Heath,—which we think must have been meant for Rendsley Heath, in the neighbourhood of Truggers and Stonewall. His son John Woodgate lived at Rendsley Heath, and left a will dated 8th October, 1617.

"Being aged and sickly" he directs that he should be buried in the church or churchyard of Chidingstone. Poor of Chidingstone, 40/-. Daughter Elizabeth, £10. Daughter Hester, £50, one joynd bedstead with a feather bed and bolster, coverlett and blankett thereunto belonging all being in my parlor and the great joynd cheste standing in the loft over the hawle. Son William, one table with frame with the benches and form thereunto belonging "without cubbert," all standing in the hall of my now dwelling house, with one furnace standing in the kitchen or brewhouse, one "chayer," one great hop chest, all implements of husbandry and certain other goods. Residue of goods to wife Elizabeth, the sole executrix. Son William to have all the timber in the closes that is already felled, and the two boxes with the title deeds, to be delivered to him immediately.

Witnesses: Thomas Leddal, Scr. and Anthony Combridge,

Proved P.C.C. 4th July, 1620 by Elizabeth Woodgate, widow. (81 Soames).

We do not know what became of William Woodgate; he appears to have died without issue, in which case his branch would have become extinct in the male line.

IV.

To revert to Walter, younger son of John Woodgate, jun., of Chidingstone, who served under Jack Cade. He appears on the Court Rolls frequently from 1480 onwards, and in 1509 owns land formerly belonging to Fynch. In 1515 he alienates to Henry Jessop and Thomas Skynner lands, etc., late of Alice Coleyn. In 1518 (when Stretfield and Stretfyld begin to appear on the Court Rolls of the Honour of Otford, on the part of Somerden) he is a feoffee of two properties; one, of house and 50a. of John Alford, with John Goldsmith and Andrew Combridge. The other, Longmead and Kyngshell, alienated by Rd. Beche and Wm. Goldsmith to Walter Woodgate, Robert Derknoll and John Moyes. In 1513 Margaret Tangmere alienates a house and land called Blowerhill to Robert Derkynhol (of Hawden), Henry Jessop, Richard Rivers, and Walter Woodgate, and in 1535, he and Richard Rivers and others are John Hart's feoffees of house and land called Fercombe.

Walter Woodgate settled in Penshurst; he was there in 1513, and is one of the fourteen inhabitants included in the subsidy of that year. It is difficult to see why only fourteen are assessed, but such is the case. They are all assessed in respect of £20, except Jasper Culpepper, Gent., and Lucas Johnson, £40. Their names are Walter Fuller, John Moyse, Walter Woodgate, Richard Stretfeld, James Beecher, Robert Combridge, John Combridge, and a few others mostly illegible.

He died soon afterwards, leaving a widow Julian and several sons namely Edward, of whom presently; Walter, m. Joan Bassett; John Woodgate of Penshurst, apparently left no issue; Reginald or Reynold Woodgate of Penshurst, ancestor of the Woodgates of Sundridge; and probably, Peter Woodgate, ancestor of the Woodgates of Hawkhurst.

Edward, the son, living at Chidingstone, 1543, at Penshurst from 1544 to 1566, was for some time in the service of Sir George Harpur, of Great Chart, a man of enterprising character who nearly perished on the scaffold under Henry VIII. Edward's fidelity was rewarded by a devise of leasehold lands held of John, Duke of Northumberland. This land he subsequently sold to Alexander Colepepper, Esq., of London, and of "the great lodge park of Northfryth," Tonbridge. The conveyance is dated 5th June, 1558; is signed by Edward Woodgate in a good hand; and sealed with his seal, a spray of oak leaves above, *acorns* below, and E.W. in the middle.

Woodgate of Peushurst.

SHEET No. II.

Bridget . . . bur. at Edward Woodgate of Peushurst, son of Walter Woodgate of Peushurst. Will dated 1584, then of East Peckham.
Peushurst 25 July 1560. (See Sheet No. I.)

Alice, dau. of Richard Rivers of Peushurst, and sister of Sir John Rivers, Knt, Lord Mayor of London.

Edward Woodgate of Wrotham, deceased in 1589. = Elizabeth . . . She remar. Reynes in 1589. = John Reynes of City of London. = John Woodgate of Brenchley. = ...
Walter Woodgate of Peushurst, bur. 18 Feb. 1619. = Ann Mills, mar. at Chidingstone 14 Feb. 1571-2; bur. 4 Sep. 1620. A dau. = John Swayland of Cowden. Margaret . . . Anne. Thomas Woodgate of Chidingstone, afterwards of Hadlow. Will Adm'n granted 5 Jan. 1619. = Alice
William Woodgate, bur. at Peushurst 26 July 1558; bur. 21 Aug. 1588. = Benjamin Woodgate, bur. at Peushurst 25 July 1560.
William Woodgate, bur. at Peushurst 13 Dec. 1562; bur. 25 Dec. 1562. = George Woodgate, bur. at Peushurst 4 March 1564; bur. 1 April 1564. = Mary, bur. at Peushurst 24 Nov. 1566. = Susanus, bur. at Peushurst 20 March 1568.
Peter Woodgate, bur. at Peushurst 15 June 1570; bur. 3 July 1571. = Edmund Woodgate of Peushurst, bur. at Peushurst 11 June 1572. = Mary
William Woodgate, under 14 in 1574. = ...

Anne, bur. 3 May 1577; bur. 4 May 1577. = Edward Woodgate, bur. at Peushurst 24 Sep. 1578. = Elizabeth
Fortunatus Woodgate of Peushurst, bur. 4 Sep. 1580; 21 Sep. 1626. 1st wife. = Elizabeth
Elizabeth, bur. at Chidingstone 9 Aug. 1578. = Bridgett, bur. at Chidingstone 9 Aug. 1579; living 1624. = John
Thomas Woodgate of Hadlow, bur. at Chidingstone 19 Feb. 1580. = Alice, bur. at Chidingstone 11 March 1582; bur. at Peushurst 29 March 1582. = Edward Woodgate, bur. at Chidingstone 19 Nov. 1587. = John Woodgate, bur. at Chidingstone 14 June 1590. = Gabriel Woodgate, bur. at Chidingstone 18 May 1596. = Jona Trice, mar. at Tonbridge 5 Sep. 1619. = Walter Woodgate, Parish Clerk and Registrar of Peushurst, bur. 20 Nov. 1597; bur. 26 Mar. 1669. = Jane
Joanna, bur. at Chidingstone 10 Oct. 1602. = Edmund Woodgate, bur. 2 Dec. 1604. = Mary, bur. 16 Dec. 1599.

Elizabeth, bur. in chancel at Peushurst 22 Aug. 1634. = A dau. = Thomas Hemming. = Fortunatus Woodgate of Peushurst, bur. 28 Feb. 1626; bur. 6 Aug. 1664. = Elizabeth, dau. of Francis Nevill of Peushurst; mar. licence 1644. = John Woodgate. = William Woodgate. = Henry Woodgate. = Alice. = Alice. = Elizabeth.

Dorothy, bur. 9 Dec. 1645. = Martha Twiss, mar. licence 1670; bur. 24 Sep. 1679. = Henry Woodgate, bur. 13 June 1647; bur. 4 June 1719. = Alice
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Elizabeth, bur. 29 July 1655; bur. at Tonbridge 1677. = Thomas
Frances, bur. 10 June 1657. = William Woodgate of London, bur. 30 March 1654; bur. at Peushurst 8 Feb. 1720. = An inf., bur. 2 July 1657. = Walter Woodgate of Brasted, bur. 17 July 1625; bur. at Peushurst 10 April 1678. Will. = Elizabeth, sister of Edward Fry; mar. 5 Oct. 1648. = Nathaniel Woodgate, bur. 6 Oct. 1629; bur. 7 Oct. 1629. = Thomas Woodgate, bur. 16 July 1637; bur. 22 May 1681. = Elizabeth Terry, mar. 7 Dec. 1671; bur. 29 June 1681. = Infant, bur. 17 Sep. 1628. = A son, bur. 1 July 1636. = A son, bur. 21 Jan. 1640-41. = Elizabeth, bur. 2 May 1661.

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Walter Woodgate, bur. 27 Aug. 1675. = Mary, bur. 15 Aug. 1686; mar. 17 Feb. 1708, Thomas Keunard of Tonbridge. = Robert Woodgate, bur. 21 Dec. 1687. = William Woodgate, bur. 24 May 1692; bur. 25 March 1693. = Fortunatus Woodgate, b. 12, bur. 14 April 1700. = Richard Woodgate, bur. 28 March 1706. = Elizabeth, bur. at Peushurst 30 Nov. 1653. = Francis = Mary, = Edward = Elizabeth, bur. at Peushurst 3 Dec. 1657; bur. 9 July 1687. = Jona, bur. at Peushurst 7 Feb. 1659-60. Will. = Robert = Thomas Woodgate of Farnborough. Will proved 1701; s.p. = Sarah, bur. at Brasted 17 April 1673. = Thomas Woodgate, bur. 28 June 1675; bur. 14 Feb. 1676. = John Woodgate. = William Woodgate. = Twiss, bur. 14 May 1674. = Sarah, bur. 5 May 1679.

Henry Webb. Ann. = Robert Cascott. = Jane = Jacob Couchman. = Walter Cascott, 4 children. = Mary

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IV.

To revert to Walter, younger son of John Woodgate, jun., of Chidingstone, who served under Jack Cade. He appears on the Court Rolls frequently from 1480 onwards, and in 1509 owns land formerly belonging to Fynch. In 1515 he alienates to Henry Jessop and Thomas Skynner lands, etc., late of Alice Coleyn. In 1518 (when Stretfield and Stretfyld begin to appear on the Court Rolls of the Honour of Otford, on the part of Somerden) he is a feoffee of two properties; one, of house and 50a. of John Alford, with John Goldsmith and Andrew Combridge. The other, Longnead and Kyngshell, alienated by Rd. Beche and Wm. Goldsmith to Walter Wodgate, Robert Derknoll and John Moyes. In 1513 Margaret Tangmere alienates a house and land called Blowerhill to Robert Derkynhol (of Hawden), Henry Jessop, Richard Rivers, and Walter Woodgate, and in 1535, he and Richard Rivers and others are John Hart's feoffees of house and land called Fercombe.

Walter Woodgate settled in Penshurst; he was there in 1513, and is one of the fourteen inhabitants included in the subsidy of that year. It is difficult to see why only fourteen are assessed, but such is the case. They are all assessed in respect of £20, except Jasper Culpepper, Gent., and Lucas Johnson, £40. Their names are Walter Fuller, John Moyse, Walter Woodgate, Richard Stretfeld, James Beecher, Robert Combridge, John Combridge, and a few others mostly illegible.

He died soon afterwards, leaving a widow Julian and several sons namely Edward, of whom presently; Walter, m. Joan Bassett; John Woodgate of Penshurst, apparently left no issue; Reginald or Reynold Woodgate of Penshurst, ancestor of the Woodgates of Sundridge; and probably, Peter Woodgate, ancestor of the Woodgates of Hawkhurst.

Edward, the son, living at Chidingstone, 1543, at Penshurst from 1544 to 1566, was for some time in the service of Sir George Harpur, of Great Chart, a man of enterprising character who nearly perished on the scaffold under Henry VIII. Edward's fidelity was rewarded by a devise of leasehold lands held of John, Duke of Northumberland. This land he subsequently sold to Alexander Colepepper, Esq., of London, and of "the great lodge park of Northfryth," Tonbridge. The conveyance is dated 5th June, 1558; is signed by Edward Woodgate in a good hand; and sealed with his seal, a spray of oak leaves above, *acorns* below, and E.W. in the middle.

In 1564 Edward Woodgate and Alice his wife conveyed 4a. of meadow land in Penshurst to John Rivers of London. Alice Woodgate appears to have been daughter of Richard Rivers (*d*) of Chafford Place, Penshurst, (Steward of the lands of the Duke of Buckingham), and sister of Sir John Rivers, Knt., above mentioned, Lord Mayor of London in 1573. The Rivers of Chafford Place, Penshurst, were descended from Sir Bartholomew Rivers who received an augmentation of honour from Edward IV. for his valuable services to the house of York. His son William held a military command under Henry VII., and lies buried in Rochester Cathedral, leaving by Alice his wife a son Edward, whose son Richard was Steward of the Duke of Buckingham and died leaving several children, among whom were Alice Woodgate; Sir John Rivers; and a daughter, who married Robert Streatfeild, of High Street House, Chidingstone, ancestor of most of the different branches of that family now remaining.

By will dated 1583, Sir John Rivers directs that he should be buried at Hadlow; and gives to Thomas and Walter Woodgate of Penshurst a black coat each. His grandson John was created a baronet.

Edward Woodgate in 1571 was living at Hildenborough, and on 28th January, 1574 (the date of his will), at East Peckham.

He wills that he should be buried in East Peckham churchyard. To poor men's chest or box of East Peckham, $3\frac{1}{4}$, and of Penshurst, $3\frac{1}{4}$. To wife Alice, half the household stuff, butter, cheese, bacon, tallow, and grease, 4 quarters of wheat, of barley and of malt, 2 quarters of oats, and all the wood at his Otham property; also £6 "reddie money," and 2 chambers which she should like best in the house at Otham, with free liberty to make fire, bake, brew, draw water, or do any of the necessary business in any of the edifices there with some commodity in the herb garden, without denial. Also annuity of £6 (purchased of Thomas Mascall of Chart, next Sutton) for life, then to son Edmond. Also annuity or yearly rent of £6 out of the property of Richard Landes, in Hurstmonceux, Sussex, till children Mary, Susan, and William attain 16, then to those children. Son William, lands called Brydges after the death of Agnes Welle. Daughter Margaret, £3 6 8. Daughter Anne, £20 on marriage or at 21; Son-in-law John Sweylonde of Cowden to keep Anne's £20 for her. Johan Sextan, 6/8. Johan Browne, John Roger, Anne Browne, $3\frac{1}{4}$ each. Mary Woodgate, brother's daughter, 6-. Forgives brother Walter all debts due from him. To son Walter, all such debts as Thomas Tylden owed on bond. Son Edward all such debts as John Leonard of Chevening, Esq., owed on bond. Son Thomas, residue of goods and chattels. Thomas Tutterham and William Miller, his beloved friends, to be overseers and have 10/- each. Lands at Penshurst to son Walter. Son John, lands at East Peckham, purchased of Roger Capper, alias Coper, and John Butter of East Peckham; also lands lately purchased of Symon Pyne of Maidstone, in East Peckham and Maidstone. Son Thomas, lands in Otham and Langley, subject as aforesaid. To Robert and John Woodgate, sons of brothers Reynold Woodgate, lands at Sundridge in full satisfaction of all legacies bequeathed them by will of the said Reynold their father; otherwise, the same to go to Dorothy their mother. Witness: Thomas Tutterham, Walter Woodgate, Thomas Smythe, and Robert Woodgate.

Proved in P.C.C. (12 Pyckering).

Thomas, one of the sons, settled first at Penshurst, then at Chidingstone, and ultimately at Hadlow, where he died in 1619. We have the will of his widow, Alice, dated 27th January, 1624:—

Son Edward, three pairs of sheets and six pieces of pewter: to Alice his daughter, a brass pan. Daughter Bridget, wife of John Wolfe, clothes of "that white woollen

(*d*) The arms of Rivers are "Azure, two bars dancetté or, in chief three bezants"

cloth that I have in my house," and six pieces of pewter. John Wolfe, 5^{/-}. Son-in-law Thomas Billett, 5^{/-} and to Hester his daughter a little brass pot, brass pan, brass kettle, and pair of new sheets. Grandchild Richard Billet, pair of sheets and six table napkins. Hester and Richard Billet, all such goods as Testatrix had that were their mother's. God-daughter Alice (daughter of son Gabriel) great brass pot. Residue to son Gabriel, sole executor.

Witnesses: Robert Williamson, William Walter, and John Hooper (notary public). Proved by Gabriel, 22nd February, 1624.

Edward Woodgate, another son, lived first at Penshurst, and ultimately removed to Wrotham, in 1571-2. His widow, Elizabeth Woodgate, in May 1589, married by licence John Raynes, of the City of London, Gent. In the marriage licence Edward is described as "late of Rotham, Clothier."* Walter and Edmond, two other sons of Edward of East Peckham, deserve separate mention.

Edmond, (e), the younger son, lived at Penshurst and died leaving two sons, Walter and Edmond; the former was Parish Clerk of Penshurst, and during the Parliamentary régime seems to have fulfilled in some measure the position of Minister, especially in the celebration of marriages.

He left two surviving sons—Thomas of Penshurst, married Elizabeth Terry, and died in 1681 without male issue living at his death; and Walter. The latter married Elizabeth Fry and removed to Brasted, leaving his lands at Penshurst in the occupation of his brother-in-law, Edward Fry. His will is dated 30th March, 1678:—

To poor of Brasted, 10^{/-}. Daughter Mary, wife of Francis Jourdain, £5. Son Thomas, one press cupboard, sheets, napkins, etc. Daughter Elizabeth, £3 at 21 or marriage. Residue of goods to wife Elizabeth, the sole executrix, as to one quarter; remainder to daughter Mary, Jane, Sarah, and Elizabeth. Daughter Sarah, £100 at 21. Daughter Elizabeth, £40 at 21. House and lands at Hever, occupied by John Lee, to daughter Jane at 21. All lands in Penshurst (including house and lands called Durtrolls, lately purchased of Edward Durtroll, of Tiffey, Surrey, and occupied by Robert Skynner). To son Thomas, except a house and lands where Edward Fry lived, and 14a. lately purchased of Robert Skynner, which were to be sold, a mortgage of £300 on Durtroll's paid off and balance paid to Sarah in respect of her £100; any excess to son Thomas. Wife to receive all rents till Thomas attain 16; then an annuity of £12 till Sarah attain 21; then annuity of £10. Friends William Streatfeild, of Brasted and John Streatfeild, of Etonbridge, Overseers, and to have 5^{/-} each.

Witnesses: John Smyth, William Alchin, Henry Streatfeild.

Proved in Shoreham Peculiars, 2nd June, 1679, by Elizabeth Woodgate.

Thomas of Farningham, yeoman, the son, died apparently without issue. By will dated 6th November, 1701, he gives to wife Elizabeth all household goods and Durtroll's in Penshurst, containing about 30a. near Pound's Bridge Mill, occupied by Henry Hubbard. Sister Mary, wife of Edward Chapman of Farningham, 4a. of meadow land in Penshurst, occupied by Robt. Evans. Sister Jane, wife of Robert Cakett (f) of Brasted, £20. Residue to Mary Chapman, sole executrix.

Proved in Shoreham Peculiars, 22nd November, 1701.

With Thomas, the male line appears to have become extinct.

- (e) In 1598 Edmond Woodgate and James Porter of Seal purchased of Samuel son of Thomas Eldridge of Bidborough a moiety of a house and 80a. in Bidborough, but in November 1598, three months later, Woodgate and Porter sell the property to William Olyver of Keales in Seal.
- (f) The will of Robert Cackett of Brasted mentions wife Jane, nephew Thomas Cackett of Shibborn, nieces Margaret and Mercy, daughters of brother Giles deceased. Son Robert, house and lands in Hever. Son Walter, house and lands at Brasted. Lands occupied by Henry Thompson. Robert and Walter Executors. Dated and proved 1712 (Shoreham).

The will of Jane Cackett of Brasted, widow, mentions son Robert and wife; daughter Jane wife of Jacob Conchman; son Walter and his wife Mary and their four children. Dated and proved 1731 (Shoreham).

* See Reference Sheet.

V.

Walter, the other son of Edward Woodgate and Alice Rivers, resided at Penshurst. He was one of the assessors of the various subsidies. In 1600, for instance, there are about forty names in Penshurst, Leigh, and Groombridge; the following are the principal ones, being all those of £4 and upwards:—

Sir Robert Sydney, Knt., Lord Governor of Flushing	Lands	—	—	£40
Thomas Waller, Knt., one of the Commissioners of the Subsidy ..	Lands	..	..	£20
Kenelme Willoughby, Gent	Lands	..	..	£6
Christopher Willoughby, Gent. ..	Goods	..	..	£6
Thomas Golding, Gent.	Goods	..	..	£10
Thomas Jorden	Lands	..	..	£6
Anthony Combridge	Goods	..	..	£6
Henry Brydger	Goods	..	..	£4
Robert Skinner	Goods	..	..	£5
Richard Fry	Goods	..	..	£4
Robert Stretfeild	Lands	..	..	£4
Henry Jessop	Goods	..	..	£4
* John Saxby, Gent.	Lands	..	..	£6
* Andrew Combridge	Lands	..	..	£4
* Walter Woodgate	Lands	..	..	£4

*Assessors.

He died in 1619. Both his elder children seemed to have died in infancy leaving only Fortunatus Woodgate, of Doubleton, Penshurst. The latter died in 1645, and wills that he should be buried in the chancel of the parish church of Penshurst, as near to his wives and child as conveniently could be.

He gives to the preacher at his funeral, 10/-. To poor of Penshurst, 20/-. Son-in-law (? Step-son) Thomas Heming, 10/-. Servants, Thomas Aynscomb, John Wood, Elizabeth Chambers, and Margaret Burges, 10d. each. Residue of personalty to cousin Elizabeth Woodgate, daughter of Gabriel Woodgate. All lands to son Fortunatus, the sole executor. Friend William Beecher and Thomas Skynner, of Penshurst, his Overseers, 10/- each.

Witnesses: Richard Lovet, Thomas Berrey, and Thomas Leddal.

Proved 23rd June, 1645.

Fortunatus died in January, 1644. His son a few months later obtained a marriage licence:—

“6 July, 1644. Fortunatus Woodgate, Gent. of Penshurst, Kent, bachelor, 18 [years], his parents deceased, and Elizabeth Nevill of same, Spinster, about 22, consent of father Francis Nevill. At St. Faith's, Middlesex.”

Fortunatus the younger of Doubleton, Penshurst, died in 1664, and directed by will dated 2nd May of that year that he should be buried in the chancel of the parish church at Penshurst. His will provided as follows:—

To minister that should preach at his funeral, 20/-. Poor of Penshurst, 40/-. Wife Elizabeth, £5, and £20 annuity. Younger son William, £100 at 21. Daughter. Dorothy, Katherine, Elizabeth, and Frances, £100 each at 21 or marriage. Eldess son Henry, “all my books being in my house, some bookes which are not mynt neither are they to be his; they are my wive's and my daughter Dorothy's”; also all leaseholds and all other lands to Henry for life, “provided that Elizabeth my wive may and shall have the use of the chamber and the furniture thereto belonging

Resolved, That the following be the order of business for the next session of the General Assembly, to be held at the City of New York, on the first of September, 1854.

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Peter Woodgate of Truggers=Joanna, dau. of John Bassett and of Stonewall. of Chidingstone; married 16 25 July 1562. November 1562.

William Woodgate of Stone=Joanna, dau. and heiress of Johan, bap. 22=William Alice, baptized= wall, Chidingstone, 3rd son, bap. Andrew Combridge of Chid- March 1578-9; Luck. 14 July 1585; 18 Feb. 1575; bur. 27 Aug. 1638. ingstone; mar. there 5 Oct. mar. 22 Oct. married 11 Will. 1602; bur. 3 Jan. 1625. 1604. Feb. 1604.

Andrew Wood- John Wood.=Sarah, dau. of Ro- Sarah=Robert Thomas Woodgate. Thomas Wood- gate, bap. 13 gate of bert Streetfeild of bap. 13 Streat- gate of Chid- Nov. 1603. Stonewall, Chested; mar. at March feild of ingstone, bap. William Wood- bap. 4 March 1612; bur. 1 1615. March 1617. gate, bap. 20 1612; bur. 1 July 1643. John Ashdowne the younger of Hever. Cran- sted. Andrew Woodgate of Westerham, bap. 23 Jan. 1619. Joanna. Elizabeth.

William Wood=Alice, dau. of Sarah.=John Ash- John Woodgate of=Elizabeth Joanna, Tho- gate of Stone- RichardStreat- bap. 1 downe of Chidingstone, bap. Beecher, The wall; High Sheriff feild of High Oct. Rendsley Chidingstone, bur. 23 Jan. bur. 23 6 Nov. gate of Kent 1699; bap- Street House, Chidingstone; bur. 23 Jan. 1718. Will. 1718. Will. 1643. Heath. 12 Aug. 1641; dec. in 1676. Oct. 1676. 1625. 9 D 162

John Woodgate=Rose, dau. and William Wood.=Hannah, Henry Wood=Lydia, dau. Thomas Wood- of Stonewall and of Summer- gate of Chid- dau. of of Thomas of St. Sepulch- hill, Tonbridge, Howgreen, Hever; mar. at Penshurst 18 Jan. 1693. 1666; bur. 13 March 1718. Coney of Seven- oaks. (See Sheet No. IV.) of Maidstone. Citizen of Lon- b. 1670.

William Woodgate of Stonewall, bap. at Penshurst 11 June 1695. Adm'on granted 13 Sep. 1743. Sarah, b. 3, bap. at Penshurst 22 Oct. 1696; bur. 28 Feb. 1761, unmar. Alice, b. 30 Dec. 1697; bur. at Penshurst 29 Jan. 1698. Will 1768. Arthur Children of Riverhill, Sevenoaks. John Woodgate, b. 4, bap. 22 Aug. 1699; bur. at Chid- ingstone 17 April 1700.

One son, d. in infancy.

over the hall during her widowhood " and residue of personalty ; after Henry's death, the same to devolve to his children, in tail male, with remainders overs. Provision for enabling Henry, then unmarried, to jointure any future wife to the extent of £20 a year. Mr. Thomas Seyliard and Thomas Cadde, both of Penshurst, Overseers, 20/- each. Will written in his own hand and signed " Fort: Woodgate." .

Witness : Richard Beecher, Mary Beecher, John Chapman.

Proved 2nd May, 1665, in P.C.C. (56 Hyde).

Henry married about 1670 - " Mrs. Martha Tworle, of Loughton, Sussex, spinster, about 28, and at her own disposal," by licence ; he was then about 25, and the marriage was to be at East Hoadley ; the licence was dated 27th December, 1670.

There was no fear of the entail terminating in William's favour, as his brother had an immense family. He was therefore sent up to London to make his fortune. We do not know what line he followed, as his will (dated 29th January, 1715) describes him simply as " gent." He seems however to have done pretty well, and directs that his body should be brought to Penshurst, to be buried in the parish church. He gives legacies of varying amounts to the following :—

Brother Henry ; brother Henry's son Henry ; sister Katherine Winn, widow ; nephew William Burgess ; cousin Henry Bewley of Plaxtol ; niece Lucy Webb ; cousin John Sandford and Elizabeth his wife ; their daughter " my cousin " Katherine Sandford ; cousin Edward Northey " of Painters Hall, London, Gent." ; cousin Nathaniel Drake, son of cousin Gideon Drake, under 21 ; and Nathaniel's uncle Edward Northey ; gives three gold rings " each of which I have by me and usually wear " ; a broad piece of gold of five and twenty shillings each to cousins Henry Burgess, Mary Burgess, and Ann wife of Edward Northey, and Eliz. Drake, now wife of Gideon Drake ; Anna Maria Drake, daughter of Gideon ; cousin Thomas Northey and Mary his wife ; brother Webb ; Mrs. Thomas Harrison ; Ann Shotter ; Mr. Charles Whadcock ; nephew William Burgess sole executor and residuary legatee.

Proved at London, 6th February, 1720. P.C.C. (38 Buckingham).

Henry appears to have been the only son among fourteen children that survived, and even he died without issue. By will dated 24th October, 1735, he left legacies to a Webb nephew and niece, and the rest of his property to Susannah Page, widow of Daniel Page, late of Penshurst. Proved at London, 20th February, 1746, by Susanna Page. This branch appears to have ended with Henry.

VI.

To return, however, to the last remaining branch of the Woodgates of this neighbourhood—that of Thomas Woodgate of Truggers, brother of William Woodgate of Woodgate, and ancestor of the Summerhill family.

In 1544 he purchased Truggers, a property at Rendsley Heath, consisting of about 50a. of land, which continued in the family for many generations. Truggers belonged originally to John Slighters, afterwards to John Pigott and then to Henry Pigott, who sold it to Woodgate. It was held of the manor of Chidingstone Burghersh. Woodgate also held various lands of the King in capite, and in the time of Henry VIII obtained the royal licence to alienate some 50 acres at Rendsley to Anne Bond, widow. Lands held in capite could only be alienated on payment of a fine or duty, often arbitrary ; and such fines continued to exist till the time of Charles II, when they were swept away, and an equivalent revenue granted to the crown. He seems also to have purchased the Rye, otherwise Holmwell, at Rendsley Heath, which in 1525 belonged to Henry Pigott and in 1557 to Thomas Woodgate.

Woodgate of Stonewall and Truggers, Chidingstone.

SHEET No. III.

Thomas Woodgate of Truggers in Chidingstone; buried 8 Feb. 1566. Elizabeth, . . . ; buried 31 July 1574.
(See Sheet No. I.)

Peter Woodgate of Truggers and of Stonewall. Joanna, dau. of John Bassett of Chidingstone; married 16 November 1662. Walter Woodgate, buried 25 July 1666. William Woodgate, buried 24 October 1570. Daniel Woodgate, buried of Chidingstone. Anne Hunter, widow; married at Chidingstone 2 Oct. 1575; buried 18 September 1584. Elizabeth, married= Walter Bussett. Thomas Woodgate of Watstock, = Abia . . . She remarried 2ndly, 7 July Chidingstone; buried 23 July 1678, Francis Cambridge. 1677.

William Woodgate of Stonewall, Chidingstone, 3rd son, bap. 15 Feb. 1575; bur. 27 Aug. 1638. Will. Joanna, dau. and heiress of Andren Cambridge of Chidingstone; mar. there 6 Oct. 1602; bur. 3 Jan. 1625. John, bap. 22= William March 1578-9; Lack. mar. 22 Oct. 1604. Alice, baptized= Joseph 14 July 1585; Briggstock married 11 Feb. 1604. Elizabeth Piggott, = Walter Woodgate = Mirrell, mar. 19 Oct. 1586; of Truggers, 1st bur. 6 Dec. 1597. 1st wife. Henry Woodgate, baptized 29 August 1580. Joseph Woodgate, bap. . . . sized 30 March 1589. Cary. Thomas Woodgate of Watstock, 2nd son, bap. 15 Jan. 1569; bur. 3 Jan. 1648. Elizabeth, bap. 16 March 1567. Mary, bap. 27 June 1568. Sarah, bap. 13 Jan. 1570. John Woodgate, bap. 10 July 1573; buried 14 March 1574. Elizabeth, = Thomas Everett of Chidingstone Nov. 1577.

Andrew Woodgate, bap. 13 Nov. 1603. John Woodgate of Stonewall, bap. 4 March 1612, bur. 1 July 1643. Sarah, dau. of Robert Streetfield of Chested; mar. at Tonbridge 27 June 1637. She remar. John Ashdowne the younger of Hever. Sarah, = Robert Streetfield of Chested. Thomas Woodgate of Chidingstone, bap. 9 June 1617; unmar. Andrew Woodgate of Westerham, bap. 23 Jan. 1619. Joanna. Elizabeth. William Woodgate, = Anna, dau. of Fry. Eliz. Ashdowne, widow, bur. 17 Jan. 1641. 1st wife. Walter Woodgate of Chidingstone, bap. 25 April= Elizabeth, dau. of Henry Care the elder of Chidingstone. 2nd wife. Margaret, bap. = . . . Wilcox. Elizabeth, bap. 26 Feb. 1592. William Woodgate of Leigh. Will 1706. Thomas Woodgate, bap. 19 July 1601. Anna, bap. March 1602; mar. Thomas Allen of Sevenoaks. Philippa, bap. 21 Dec. 1606.

William Woodgate of Kent 1590; bap. 26 Aug. 1639; bur. 23 May 1717. Will. 1718. Will. Alice, dau. of Richard Streetfield of High Street House, Chidingstone; bur. 23 Jan. 1718. Will. Sarah, = John Ashdowne, bap. 1 dome of Oct. 1643. Health. John Woodgate of Chidingstone, bap. 12 Aug. 1641; bur. 23 Oct. 1676. Elizabeth, bur. 26 Oct. 1676. Joanna, Thomas Woodgate, bap. 6 Nov. 1625. 9 Dec. 1626. Alexander. Mary, = . . . Carpenter. John Woodgate, bap. 10 Dec. 1637; bur. 8 July 1681. Thomas Woodgate of Truggers, bap. 16 Aug. 1639. Will proved 1669. Anna, dau. of Michael Bassett of Chidingstone; mar. 12 Feb. 1655; bur. 27 Oct. 1644. Miriam, bap. 9 March 1655; bur. 27 Oct. 1644. Philippa, bap. = Thomas Moyses of Tunbridge Wells; died Aug. 1696. 1700. Will. s.p. Oliver of Hardeo. Andrew. Elizabeth. William Woodgate of Penhurst. Will proved 1662. Hannah, = John Martin of Tylurst and Great Nashes. 1667. Oliver of Hardeo. Andrew. Elizabeth.

John Woodgate of Stonewall and of Summerhill, Tonbridge, bap. 13 Sep. 1664; bur. 21 Aug. 1727. Will. Rose, dau. and heiress of Francis Birby of Haver; mar. at Penhurst 18 Jan. 1693. William Woodgate of Chidingstone, b. . . . 1666; bur. 13 March 1718. Sevenoaks. Henry Woodgate of Goudhurst, b. 1668. Lydis, dau. of Thomas Croupe of Maidstone. (See Sheet No. IV.) Thomas Woodgate of St. Sepulchre's, Citizen of London, b. 1670. (See I.) Andrew Woodgate, b. 1672; bur. 20 May 1682. Sarah, = William Durrant of Farningham. Robert Woodgate, b. 1673; bur. 29 Nov. 1672. Stephen Woodgate of Sevenoaks, b. 1661. Robert Woodgate, b. 1683; bur. 20 Feb. 1688. A child, bur. 28 April 1658. John Woodgate, bap. 28 June 1662; bur. 21 Sep. 1668. Katherine, bap. 16 Sep. 1664; bur. 12 Dec. 1668. William Woodgate of Truggers, bap. 23 March 1659; bur. 14 May 1716. Anne, = Richard Legate of Penhurst. 1668. Thomas Woodgate of Chidingstone, bap. 29 Jan. 1667; bur. 14 Jan. 1722, unmar. Sarah, bap. 25 June 1686. Anne, bap. 3 Jan. 1688; bur. 6 Aug. 1702. Rebecca, b. 12 Oct. 1693; d. 20. bur. Nov. 1694.

William Woodgate of Stonewall, bap. 11 June 1666; Adam granted 13 Sep. 1743. Sarah, b. 3, bap. at Penhurst 22 Oct. 1666; bur. 28 Feb. 1761, unmar. Alice, b. 30 Dec. 1697; bur. at Penhurst 29 Jan. 1698. Will 1768. Arthur Children of Riverhill, Sevenoaks. John Woodgate, b. 4, bap. 22 Aug. 1699; bur. at Chidingstone 17 April 1700. Henry Woodgate, bap. 18 Jan. 1704; bur. at Chidingstone 1705. Rev. Francis Woodgate, Vicar of Mountfield; bap. 25 Dec. 1708. Elizabeth, bap. at Penhurst 8 Mar. 1708; bur. 5 Nov. 1766, unmar. Anne, bap. at Penhurst 19 May 1711; bur. 21 Sep. 1792, unmar. John Woodgate of Stonewall, bap. at Chidingstone Dec. 1712; bur. 20 March 1770, unmar. Stephen Woodgate, bap. at Tonbridge 21 May 1716; bur. 7 Aug. 1716. Mary, bap. Tonbridge May 1718; bur. 25 Oct. 1718.

Woodgates of Summerhill, etc.
(See Sheet No. V.)

One son, d. in infancy.

over the hall during her widowhood " and residue of personalty ; after Henry's death, the same to devolve to his children, in tail male, with remainders overs. Provision for enabling Henry, then unmarried, to jointure any future wife to the extent of £20 a year. Mr. Thomas Seyliard and Thomas Cadde, both of Penshurst, Overseers, 20/- each. Will written in his own hand and signed " Fort: Woodgate." .

Witness : Richard Beecher, Mary Beecher, John Chapman.

Proved 2nd May, 1665, in P.C.C. (56 Hyde).

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Proved at London, 6th February, 1720. P.C.C. (38 Buckingham).

Henry appears to have been the only son among fourteen children that survived, and even he died without issue. By will dated 24th October, 1735, he left legacies to a Webb nephew and niece, and the rest of his property to Susannah Page, widow of Daniel Page, late of Penshurst. Proved at London, 20th February, 1746, by Susanna Page. This branch appears to have ended with Henry.

VI.

To return, however, to the last remaining branch of the Woodgates of this neighbourhood—that of Thomas Woodgate of Truggers, brother of William Woodgate of Woodgate, and ancestor of the Summerhill family.

In 1544 he purchased Truggers, a property at Rendsley Heath, consisting of about 50a. of land, which continued in the family for many generations. Truggers belonged originally to John Slighters, afterwards to John Pigott and then to Henry Pigott, who sold it to Woodgate. It was held of the manor of Chidingstone Burghersh. Woodgate also held various lands of the King in capite, and in the time of Henry VIII obtained the royal licence to alienate some 50 acres at Rendsley to Anne Bond, widow. Lands held in capite could only be alienated on payment of a fine or duty, often arbitrary ; and such fines continued to exist till the time of Charles II, when they were swept away, and an equivalent revenue granted to the crown. He seems also to have purchased the Rye, otherwise Holmwell, at Rendsley Heath, which in 1525 belonged to Henry Pigott and in 1557 to Thomas Woodgate.

One year before he purchased Truggers, *i.e.*, in 1543, Thomas Woodgate appears to have been one of the chief men in Chidingstone (after the Willoughby's of Boar Place). There are about 80 names, and the following are the first nine in order.

Thomas Willoughby, one of the justices of the King's Bench					Lands	£10
Humphry Walrond, Gent.					Lands	20/-
Thomas Woodgate					Goods	13/4
Stephen Pays					Goods	13/4
Richard Streatfeild					Goods	13 4
William Bassett					Goods	5/4
William Ashdowne					Goods	5/-
John Ashdowne					Goods	4/8
Radus Ashdowne					Goods	4/-

Two years later the order is as follows :—

Humphry Willoughby, Gent.					Lands	40/-
Christopher Willoughby, Gent.					Lands	40/-
Robert Stretfyld					Goods	32/-
Thomas Woodgate					Goods	16 -
William Ashedowne					Goods	13 -
William Pygot					Lands	12/-
Christopher Woodgate					Lands	10/-
Raff Ashdowne					Lands	10/-
John Bassett					Goods	10/-
William Bassett					Goods	10/-
Bryget Willoughby, widow(g)					Lands	9/-

About 1558, out of 55 names, the first three are :—

Richard Stretfelde					Goods	£22
Henry Stretfeld					Goods	£16
Thomas Woodgate					Goods	£12

The year before Thomas Woodgate's death, *i.e.* 1564 out of 52 names the first four are as follows :—

Thomas Willoughby, Esq.					Lands	£40
Richard Stretfelde					Goods	£20
Henry Stretfeld					Goods	£14
Thomas Woodgate					Goods	£12

Christopher Woodgate comes ninth with £7 in lands, and Peter Woodgate with £5.

Thomas Woodgate died in 1565. He left a will, but it cannot be found in any of the Courts of Probate; it must therefore have been lost. We have learnt one or two particulars of it from a suit in chancery of 1595.

The will was dated 20th January, 1565. By it (amongst other things) he gave to William his third son a property at Rendsley Heath called Casdenne, containing 24a., in tail male, with remainder to second son Thomas in tail male. William died unmarried in 1570, soon after attaining his majority. Thomas his brother died seven years later; but he had first mortgaged Casdenne to Richard Waters, of Chidingstone, Miller, who (by directions contained in Thomas' will) sold Casdenne, to John Combridge of Penshurst and Francis Combridge his son, paid off his mortgage debt and handed over the balance to the executors. The Combridges entered into possession and settled it on Abia, widow of Thomas Woodgate and

(g) The Willoughby's of Chidingstone Burghersh were the most important family in the place. Bridget Willoughby was daughter and co-heiress of Sir Robert Read, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas and Lord of the Manor; and widow of Sir Thomas Willoughby, Knt., a younger brother of William Lord Willoughby (ancestor of Lord Willoughby of Eresby).

then the wife of Francis Combridge. John and Francis died several years previously to 1595. The land was claimed by Andrew, John, and Robert, as brothers and heirs of Francis, subject to the settlement on Abia Combridge; and also by Peter and Daniel Woodgate, the two remaining sons of Thomas the Elder, as heirs in gavelkind.

Of Daniel Woodgate, the youngest son (*h*), we know nothing, except that he married Ann Hunter, widow, in 1575 (who seems to have died in 1584); and was churchwarden of Chidingstone in 1578.

Thomas Woodgate, of the "Stooke," (or Watstock), the second son, is described sometimes as "clothier." Peter Woodgate and John Lye, of Edenbridge, were the trustees of his marriage settlement in 1566. He left no male issue surviving. We cannot find the will; but we know from another chancery suit that he died in 1577, and that by will dated 15th July, 1577 (amongst other things) he devised the Stoke to Abia his wife for her life, and after her decease to his three nephews, Walter, Thomas, and William Woodgate, successively in tail male, subject to sums charged thereon for his daughters. The will was proved by Abia, the sole executrix, who soon afterwards married the above-named Francis Combridge, (*i*) on whose death in 1584 she remarried his cousin, Anthony Combridge, of Newhouse, Penshurst. Thomas, the second nephew, succeeded to Watstock, under the entail, Walter having sold (*k*) to him his interest under the will.

The eldest son of Thomas Woodgate, of Truggers, was Peter Woodgate, who succeeded to that property. Once, in 1577, he is described in a deed as "Peter Woodgate, of Chidingstone, clothier, son of Thomas Woodgate, late of Cranbrook, deceased, Clothier." If this deed is correct, then it can only be supposed that Thomas went off in his early days to Cranbrook, at the same time probably as his cousin Peter went to the adjoining town of Hawkhurst (the two chief centres of the great cloth manufacturing industry); that Thomas, while still there, purchased land at Chidingstone under his description of "Clothier" and eventually returned to Chidingstone: and that when Peter sold the same land (*l*) in 1575, it was deemed advisable by the attorney to identify Peter as the son of the purchaser.

- (*h*) Daniel Woodgate was perhaps the father of Peter Woodgate of Tonbridge, who had several children. Peter's wife died in 1651. This connection, however, is only conjectural.
- (*i*) Francis Combridge by will dated 4th June, 1584, gave all his lands to Abia for life, and then to his three brothers, Andrew of Chidingstone, Robert of Penshurst, and John (who died without issue). Andrew and his nephew Robert, son of Robert deceased, agreed to divide the inheritance between them, subject to the widow's life estate. Dated 4th June, 1624.
- (*k*) By Indenture dated 21st November, 1617, made between Walter Woodgate of Chidingstone and Thomas Woodgate of Penshurst, Walter in consideration of £180 and the sum thereafter mentioned granted to Thomas (1) A close of land in Chidingstone called Culderscroft containing 5a. next the King's Highway leading from Chidingstone to Cowden S. land of William Luck N. and W. and land of Walter Woodgate E. (2) 12½a. of land and woodland in Chidingstone called Aldine Croft or Little Coppys next land of William Luck W, land late of Matthew Dye N, and land of Walter Woodgate E. and S. (3) 1 rood of land in Chidingstone being the N.W. corner of a field belonging to Walter called Sandfield or Hardlefield and right of way thereto through Sandfield into Aldine Croft and Culderscroft. (4) a messuage, orchard, barns, stables, and edifices called the Stoke alias Stookehaes, alias Prickfieldhaes and 4a. of land adjoining in Chidingstone next land of Silvester Streatfeild, Gent. E. (5) 4a. in Chidingstone called Pookden next the King's Highway leading from Renlies Hoath to Chidingstone S.W., land of Anthony Combridge E. and land of John Woodgate S. (Numbers (4) and (5) were subject to the life estate of Abia Combridge). Reservation to Walter of right to resort to the marl pit in Aldine Croft to take marl for Sandfield. Covenant by Thomas to pay the money charged on (4) and (5) to his deceased uncle's daughters. Thomas releases Walter from a bond dated 18th June, 1613, to secure to Thomas £450.

Abia Combridge died in May, 1632, but Anthony Combridge her husband, and Abia Everest her grand-daughter retained the deeds and claimed the land, which was the reason of Thomas Woodgate bringing the suit. Thomas Woodgate seems to have gained the day.

- (*l*) The land in question consisted of 4a. of meadow called Snaghope in Chidingstone next Hadderedge Mead, East; the common River, South; and Hadderedge and Watermede, West and North; also right of way to Snaghope through lands of Peter. Covenant by Peter and Joan his wife to levy a fine. Purchaser, Sir John Rivers, Knt., of London, for £45. Dated 7th May, 1575.

Peter Woodgate married in 1562 Joan daughter of John Bassett, of Chidingstone, whose family had been long settled in the parish. In the reign of Edward III (1373), Thomas Bassett appears as one of the chief men in Chidingstone. About this time, in 1558 and 1559, the Bassetts of Chidingstone intermarried with the families of Vane and Lambarde, two of the principal families of Kent. There is reason to believe that Joan Bassett was an heiress or co-heiress (*m*).

It is almost certain that Peter Woodgate built Stonewall, which was still in the family less than a century ago; the main part of the house has been pulled down* and only a small remnant left. However, we are informed that the inscription "W.W., 1590" is carved upon a beam in the remaining part of the old house. In 1590, Peter's son William was about fourteen years old; what is more probable than that some boyish instinct led him to climb up and carve his initials in his father's house? This shows at least that the place had been built, and was then inhabited by Peter. Again, two years previously Peter Woodgate had settled Truggers in trust for his eldest son Walter (*n*); it seems that he left Truggers to reside at Stonewall. Peter Woodgate, who was living in 1605, died soon afterwards; no entry of his burial and no will can be found.

He was succeeded in Stonewall by his third son William; the Woodgates of Stonewall are accounted for in the succeeding chapter.

VII.

Thomas the second son of Peter was of Watstock. He had only one son, Thomas, and several daughters, of whom Anna married Thomas Allen, of Sevenoaks. Anna by will dated 14th January, 1675 (made by virtue of ante nuptial agreement, dated 1672), gave a messuage and 20a. in Leigh to her nephew William Woodgate, of Leigh, Gent., and made various bequests, including £10 to Carey Woodgate, daughter of Joseph Woodgate her uncle. Husband executor.

(*m*) We have no idea of the extent of her fortune. Part of it lay in Cudham, called Skidds' Forty Acres, held of the Manor of Oxenhoath.

In 1590 Peter Woodgate was tenant of the Oxenhoath Court Rolls in right of his wife; and he, with Joan his wife, granted this property to their son Thomas of Watstock who appears on the homage in 1603. In 1609 he alienated the same to John Glover.

(*n*) In 1588 Peter Woodgate alienated Truggers to Henry Hebbethwaite of London, in trust for Walter Woodgate, who attained 21 in that year. In 1605 Hebbethwaite surrendered Truggers to Walter.

Peter Woodgate signs the parochial accounts in 1566 and subsequent years. The following note is entered in the parish books:—

"A copy [of court roll] of a little house at Summerden Green builded and belonging to the poor of the parish of Chidingstone granted to Peter Woodgate to the use of the poor April 22nd, anno 43 Elizabeth, was delivered by Henry Stretfeild to the now Churchwardens, 29th April, 1621"

The following is from the order of the seats in the church agreed upon 28th September, 1571.

"Tenements and their occupiers, viz. :—

Wyborn at Bowbech	Thomas Hayward.
Riddens at Bowbech	Henry Moody,
Scoryers, William Seyliard, Gent.	Occupier, Richard Wells.
John Hayward's tenement	Thomas Lewin.
Sometime Pigot's Tenement (Truggers)	Peter Woodgate.
Cransted	Richard Stretfeild.
Tenement late Snap's	William Gibson, Gent.
Stonelake	William Clarke.
Tenement of Thomas Hayward at Tyegreen	Richard Amerst.

The uppermost six seats on ye north side were builded and made by Thomas Willoughby, Esq., for his household seats; the seventh, eighth, and ninth, by John Jessop of ye Causeway Tenement of Richard Blome, at Waterslip. The long seat in the South ayle, sometime called St. Edward's Chapel, belongeth to Bore Place.

The chappell on ye north side of the chancell was builded by Sir Robt. Redde, Knt., Chief Justice of ye Common Pleas, for his house called Bore Place."

John Hill, Parson	Thomas Willoughby, Esq.
John Ashdowne, senior.	Richard Stretfeild.
Henry Ashdowne, junior.	Henry Ashdowne, senior.
John Jessop.	William Beecher. etc.

* See Reference Sheet.

William Woodgate of Leigh, by will dated 1st June, 1706, "being aged but in good health," gave legacies to Robert Hunt and his family; to John Sale of Leigh, and Elizabeth his wife, and John his son; nieces Jane and Frances, daughters of John White of Great Peckham; Elizabeth, Ann, John, Mary, Joseph, and William, children of John Bennett, of Tonbridge; kinsman John Sale, senior, executor. The Sales got the bulk, including an estate at Hollenden, Leigh. Proved 16th December, 1706.

With William Woodgate the male line of this branch seems to have become extinct.

VIII.

Walter Woodgate of Truggers, eldest son of Peter Woodgate of Stonewall, owned Sealefields, Rook's Hoath, and other lands. He was churchwarden from time to time, as in 1622.

In 1625, on the occasion of his son William's marriage, he settled on him by deed dated 10th July, Truggers and 50a., and Rook's Hoath in Chidingstone and 24a. He had also a younger son Walter, who married and had issue.

William Woodgate of Truggers, the elder son, had a numerous family. Among others, he had John (o), who died without issue; Thomas; Philippa, married Moyse; Sarah, married Alexander; Hannah, married Martin; and Joell. William Woodgate, for the advancement in marriage of his son Thomas (p), by deed dated 12th November, 1655, settled on him Truggers and Rooke's Hoath, and house and 8a. at Rendsley Hoath purchased 25th March, 1643, of John Care; also 16a. of arable, pasture, and woodland in Chidingstone purchased 2nd May, 1626, of Henry Ashdowne subject to an annuity of £15 to himself for life, and to the sum of £200 to be paid on his death to his younger son Joel. In consideration of the marriage, Thomas Woodgate by deed dated 15th December, 1655, settled on his prospective wife an annuity of £13, charged on the above property.

Thomas Woodgate's wife was Ann daughter of Michael Bassett (q) of Chidingstone, Lord of the Manor of Stangrove, in Edenbridge. We have Thomas's will dated 16th April, 1669, describing him as of Chidingstone.

To poor of Chidingstone, £4 10 0. To poor of Penshurst, £4 10 0. To youngest son Thomas, £1,200 at 21. Daughter Anne, £200 at 21 or on marriage. Wife Ann, such household goods as he had with her on marriage; residue of personalty to son William. Wife Anne, life estate in Truggers and the furniture. Trustees to let Geeres, accumulate proceeds and hand them over to son Thomas at 21. All lands in Kent and Sussex to son William including Sealefields (held on a lease for 2000

(o) The will of John Woodgate of Penshurst was proved 18th April, 1662 by brother Joel in Shoreham Peculiars. He held lands of the Manor of Penshurst Halimote; and on his death the Lord seised a steer as the best beast by way of heriot, for which Joel compounded by paying £4 4 4 at a Court Baron holden 16th October, 13 Charles II, a very valuable steer!

(p) By an indenture dated 20th January, 1664, John Sage of Speldhurst in consideration of £305 conveyed to Thomas Woodgate of Chidingstone Geeres and its appurtenances containing 20a. of land and 8a. of wood, late in the occupation of John Sage of Sundridge, but subject to a life annuity of £5 to Elizabeth Ashdowne of Chidingstone, Spinster, under the will of Nicholas Ashdowne of Chidingstone deceased, and a mortgage for £80 created by Sage (created for payment of £40 each to his brothers William and Thomas, given by will of Nicholas Ashdowne).

(q) In his will dated and proved 1682, Michael Bassett mentions his daughter Anne Woodgate, widow, and her two children Anne and Thomas, both under age.

His elder son Thomas Bassett of Cowden died 13th January, 1714, aged 71, and is buried in the south aisle of Chidingstone Church where there is a stone to his memory.

John the younger son, of Edenbridge, was left the Manor of Stangrove and Linhurst Farm (60 acres) at Edenbridge. He left, by Ann his wife, five children, Sarah, Ann, Katherine, Michael, and John.

years at a peppercorn rent of Walter Woodgate, jun., of Lingfield, Surrey); and son Thomas to release to William his right in Robert lands (r). Executors: Brother Joel, and brother-in-law Thomas Bassett, of Chidingstone. Proved P.C.C., 16th June, 1669. (80 Coke).

William of Truggers the eldest son willed that he should be buried in the church of Chidingstone. Gave £100 to sister Ann Legate and everything else to brother Thomas Woodgate, of Penshurst, sole executor. (Will dated 17th December, 1714).

The latter was "of Burwash, Sussex, Gent," in 1689. His will, dated 20th September, 1716, describes him as of Chidingstone. He gave £50 to sister Ann Legate, £10 to poor of Chidingstone, £10 to poor of Penshurst, £10 to Francis Green, of East Grinstead, his trustee, £10 each to John Hayles, of Penshurst, and John Streatfeild (executors), and everything else, including all his lands in Chidingstone, Hever, Cowden, Lingfield, and Rotherfield, to John Longley. Proved in P.C.C. 23rd February, 1722 by Hayles; in 1742 administration (with will annexed) de bonis non, granted to John Longley; Hayles and Streatfeild both being dead. (41 Richmond).

To return to the children of William Woodgate of Truggers.

Philippa, a daughter, married Thomas Moyse (s), of Tonbridge. Moyse possessed some leasehold land at Tunbridge Wells on which he built a house. He appears to have been a man of extravagant disposition, and before his marriage had contracted "several great debts upon bond and otherwise." It was, however, arranged by the marriage articles dated 2nd February, 1686, under which Joel and William Woodgate were Trustees, that the land should be settled; that Philippa should have all the furniture and effects after the death of Moyse, and that Moyse should give a bond in £400 to the Trustees. In consideration of this Moyse took the greater part of Philippa's fortune, and with it paid off a great many of his debts. Afterwards, however, instead of paying off his incumbrances, Moyse continually added to them, and finally was arrested for debt and committed to prison at Maidstone, where he died some years later.

His estate of course was insolvent; but his widow took out letters of administration, and paid off nearly £200 of the debts out of what remained of her fortune, including £5 which Moyse had borrowed of John Coppin, the gaoler at Maidstone; and £10 11 2, Henry Streatfeild's charges for preparing the marriage articles.

Philippa Moyse made her will dated 18th October, 1700. She willed to be buried at Penshurst. Left £10 each to her sisters Elizabeth Osborn and Hannah Martin; £20 to each of the children of sisters King, Alexander, and Carpenter; 20/- to cousin Richard Fry, nephews William and Thomas Woodgate, and niece Ann Legate. Residue to brother Joel, sole executor.

Witnesses: Henry Streatfeild, Mary Seale, William Hilder,

Proved 12th November, 1700.

Joel the executor sold the effects at Tunbridge Wells for £58, the unexpired term of the lease for £100 to Henry Streatfeild (who resold it to Philip Seal for £130) and paid off the residue of Moyse's debts and the legacies leaving a comfortable balance for himself.

Sarah Woodgate, another daughter, married first Oliver Combridge, of Hawden, Penshurst; marriage settlement dated 23rd June, 1651. Oliver Combridge owned Hawden and 60a., Newhouse and 60a., and other lands, of the yearly value of £140. By his will dated 27th September, 1656, he gave all the lands in Penshurst, Speldhurst, and Tonbridge (which came from his uncle Andrew) to son Oliver; Harts

(r) Robertland consisting of 34a. near Rendleys Hoath was purchased 15th October, 1652, by Thomas Woodgate of Chidingstone, of John Seyliard, of Delaware, Esq., son of Thomas Seyliard, for £310. In 1477 it belonged to John Ashdowne (Rabbotteslande).

(s) For pedigree of Moyse of Penshurst, down to 1569, see Add. MSS., 34, 105, fo. 120 in Brit. Mus.

and the remaining lands in Bidborough, Leigh, and Tonbridge to son Andrew. Personalty to wife for life, then to the children. His father Christopher and Uncle Oliver, executors.

The uncle died soon after his nephew ; and Christopher the father, having made Thomas Woodgate of Truggers and his daughter-in-law, Sarah Combridge (Woodgate) executors, " by the persuasion of him the said Thomas Woodgate, he the said Christopher the father did withdraw himself to places unknown," and soon afterwards died. On his death, Sarah took out letters of administration to her husband, and married Thomas Alexander, Citizen of London.

The eldest child, Oliver, claimed that Thomas Woodgate, who died in 1669 leaving personal estate of the value of £2,000, had not produced proper accounts of the rents and profits received by him before his death. (It seems that the reason for Christopher Combridge's withdrawal was financial embarrassment ; for Thomas Alexander, the principal creditor, took out letters of administration, on 1st August, 1665).

Hannah, another daughter, married John Martin of Tyhurst. The marriage licence, in 1667, represented Martin as being about 27, and Hannah (of Sevenoaks) as about 24, and at own disposal ; to be at St. Clement Danes, or St. Mary Savoy, Middlesex. The marriage settlement dated 24th May, 1667, comprised Great Nashes and 70a., house and 8a. in Leigh, Little Nashes, and 5a. called Dunmow Mead. The trustees were Thomas Woodgate of Chidingstone and William Martin of Leigh (brother of John). He also owned property in Sevenoaks and elsewhere, some of which he sold to Henry Streatfeild on 24th December, 1686.

The last of the family (except Thomas of Chidingstone), was Joel Woodgate of Penshurst. He gave £5 to the poor of Penshurst and the residue (subject to trifling legacies) to wife Sarah, executrix. Gilbert Spencer (of Redleaf) and John Turner, overseers. Proved 29th June, 1715 (Shoreham Peculiars).

It seems that he had already provided for his only daughter Sarah, to whom he gave £6 for mourning. In 1702 his daughter Ann Woodgate was buried. There is a statement in the Register of Burials that she " was worth £50 per annum " though her father was still living.

CHAPTER II.

STONEWALL PERIOD, 1590-1718.

William Woodgate of Stonewall, third son of Peter Woodgate of Stonewall, married in 1602 Joanna daughter and heiress of Andrew Combridge of Chidingstone. The settlement was dated 1st September, 1602, by which certain lands consisting of two houses in Penshurst occupied by Thomas Bates and Humphrie Ware, land called the Eyland in Chidingstone and certain lands called Bramsell were by Andrew Combridge granted to John Turner of Cowden and John Ashdowne, of Chidingstone, in trust for the parties to the marriage and their issue subject to the life interest of Andrew Combridge. At the same time John Combridge, brother of Andrew, settled on his niece a small property called Keysden. Andrew Combridge died in 1624.

The Combridges (a) were an ancient family of Penshurst, descended from Adam de Comerugge living temp. Henry III (1216-1272); the name in early manuscripts is spelt in every conceivable manner, such as Comebrydge, Comerycke, Cumbrege, Comerbridge, Comeledge, etc. In early times they wrote themselves De Comerbrugge, and in the 13th century held lands in Penshurst, Speldhurst, Tonbridge, and Chidingstone. As the family is so much connected with the Woodgates a pedigree is appended. The arms of Combridge are "*Gules, a cross moline or between four swans with their wings addorsed argent, membered and beaked of the second, each standing on a mount vert.*" These arms were until recent years still remaining in the windows of Coldharbour and Hawden, two of the ancient family estates in Penshurst; and should be quartered by all Woodgates descended from William Woodgate.

William Woodgate continually signs the parish accounts in a clear well-formed hand, and for a number of years was churchwarden. He seems to have used sometimes, for his seal, the acorn, which perhaps is more properly the family crest than the squirrel, *sed quaere*. In October, 1625, an assessment was made on the parish for repairing Chidingstone Church, which had been burnt down the 17th July previously, at the rate of sixpence for every house and sixpence an acre. There is a list of the 82 owners of property and their acreage, amounting to 2,851 acres (not including

(a) There is a mass of information relating to the Combridges, collected by their descendant Dr. Thorpe, the learned author of *Registrum Roffense*, now reposing in the archives of the Society of Antiquaries.

Hawden or Harden was purchased by Robert Combridge of one John Holt in 1535, and Newhouse otherwise Harts was bought by the Combridges a few years later from William son of Edward Hart. Most of the old names of houses were taken from names of families. There existed a "book of accomptes of Anthony Combridge for the framing and setting up of his house in the year 1590"; articles of agreement for building a house for Oliver Combridge the elder in 1658; an account of monies expended by Oliver Combridge the elder deceased for the education of Oliver, Andrew, and Elizabeth Combridge, from 1666 to 1672; deeds, wills, inventories, and every sort of document are referred to by Thorpe but are now in most cases destroyed.

It is not clear whether the Combridges were entitled to quarter the arms of Luck, on the marriage with Alice Luck. They were "*Ermine, five mascles conjoined in fess between three greyhounds with heads erased sable.*" They were quartered by the Thorpe's together with the Combridge arms; but possibly because of the marriage of John Thorpe with the daughter of the Rev. John Luck of Mayfield, by his wife Susan Middleton, daughter of Sir Thomas Middleton.

“outbounders” apparently, *i.e.* those owning land who lived outside the parish, which would increase the total by many hundreds). The largest owners were:—

	ACRES.
Bernard Hyde, Esq.	200
William Birsty	100
William Woodgate [of Stonewall]	100
Henry Streatfeild	100
Samuel Godden	100
John Pigott	100
Thomas Walter	100
William Hawkins' Wo.	80
William Woodgate, junr. [of Truggers]	70
Thomas Brett	70
Richard Hollamby	70
Walter Tye.. .. .	70
William Everist	70
Widow Combridge [of Andrew]	65

The outbounders included:—

William Everist, senr.	90
Matthew Ashdowne	80
Robert Streatfeild	70

William Woodgate's land is stated to consist of 10a. meadow, 70a. pasture, and 20a. wood. This is not altogether satisfactory; for there is no *arable* land mentioned. Besides which, Stonewall alone comprised 200 acres, and William owned considerable property besides, which was worth altogether £200 a year.

He died at Stonewall; on 24th August, 1638 and was buried at Chidingstone. On his death an Inquisition Post Mortem was held, to ascertain what lands of his were held of the King in capite; the jury returned that the only lands held in capite consisted of a house and 100 acres occupied by John Bassett, two houses in Chidingstone, one of which was occupied by Thomas Ledett, and the capital messuage in which he himself dwelt (*b*).

His will (the first extant will of the Stonewall branch) dated 15th August, 1638, begins in the quaint style of the period “I bequeath my soule to Almighty God (who gave it mee) and to Jesus Christe my onlie Savioure and redeemer by whose death and passion I fullie trust to have all my sinnes freelie forgiven and to attain to the joyfull resurrection of eternall life committing my bodie to the earth from whence it was taken to be buried in the Church of Chidingstone aforesaid” He gives £5 to the poor of the parish, small legacies to his god-children, William Streatfeild (his grandson), William Winter, William Trendle, and Thomas Fulman; his cousin Elizabeth Bennett, and his servant Edward Bannister; £150 to his son Andrew together with various goods such as “a bedsted with a canopy”; his grey colt and all his goods in Frennden House to his son Thomas; his piebald mare and other goods to his daughter Sarah Streatfeild; and the residue of his personal estate to his son John, the sole executor. As to his lands, he gives to his second son Thomas, a house and lands called Knights in Penshurst, occupied by his brother-in-law, William Wallis, the lands called Great Muddings, Keysden, the Eyland near Chafford Bridge, and a small house and garden at Penshurst. (These lands were of the value of £70 a year). To his son Andrew he gives a house and land called Skipreed, lands called Old Reedes, Yeoman lands, Barne Mead, Clouds Meade, and the house in Penshurst occupied by Thomas Leddall. As he had already settled Stonewall, containing 200 acres, upon John the eldest son, he only gave him the house occupied by Thomas Levett. William Wallis and Robert Streatfeild were the trustees, and the will was proved 12th October, 1638, in the Shoreham Peculiars.

It must be remembered that in 1638 money was very much more valuable than it is to-day. One pound in the time of Henry VIII was equal to £6 in the reign of Queen Anne, and £10 in the reign of George III. The legacies under this will must therefore be multiplied by about 10 before a proper estimate of their value can be formed. By this standard William Woodgate's personal property consisted of £20,000 and he had land worth £2,000 a year.

On William's death John succeeded to Stonewall, and two suits in chancery began. In the first, Thomas Woodgate as plaintiff filed his bill of complaint in November, 1639, against his brother John. Thomas alleged that the settlement of Stonewall was made on condition that John would release certain rights under the Combridge marriage settlement; John in his reply denied this. It does not appear that friendly relations between the two brothers were seriously interrupted.

In the second suit, John Woodgate as plaintiff filed his bill on 20th October, 1639, against his sister Sarah Streatfeild and Robert Streatfeild her husband. He complains that the Streatfeilds "and Thomas Woodgate, one of the sons of the testator, all or some of them being allwayes dwelling in the house of the said testator untill and at the time of his decease," entered all or most of the rooms and chambers, chests, trunks, and presses, and took possession of various securities. John being married, and keeping house by himself, was a stranger to the estate of his father. He believed that Thomas was indebted to his father. William Woodgate just before his death had received divers sums due to him, such as from William Starkey for salt cattle, and from Henry Crittenden for wood. The personal estate should have amounted to £2,000, which Thomas Woodgate admitted, but he said in reply that he only borrowed £10 or £11. Sarah Streatfeild said she had only taken an old taffeta apron which used to belong to her mother and which had been promised to her. All parties wrote good hands.

John Woodgate had married in his father's lifetime Sarah daughter of Robert Streatfeild, of Chested, Penshurst, sister of the above-mentioned Robert (c). William Woodgate desiring to advance his son in marriage, by deed dated 10th June, 1637, conveyed Stonewall and the appurtenances (some 200 acres) to Robert Streatfeild and William Wallis in trust for himself for life, and after his death for John Woodgate absolutely. During his father's lifetime John lived at Frenden House, but on the death of his father removed to Stonewall.

- (c) The Streatfeilds are one of the good old families of Kent and still retain all their original property at Chidingstone and the neighbourhood. Their principal residence at Chidingstone was known as High Street House—presumably because the street that runs through the village is on a high elevation and not because the place was ever important enough to possess a "High Street." The family have owned the house since 1550; it has since been rebuilt. A large engraving of it appeared in Harris' *History of Kent*.

One of the family, the Rev. Thomas Streatfeild of Charts Edge, a man who spent his life in collecting materials for a history of Kent, observes:—

"Though I have hitherto failed to deduce the pedigree from an earlier source than temp. Henry VII (namely Robert Streatfeild, who married, as already mentioned, the sister of Sir John Rivers), the family appears to have been settled in and about Hever for several generations previously." He traces the name from the borough of Stretfeild in Surrey, he thinks in Brede; though Mr. R. Carter Smith deduced it from "*Streit des felde*."

Perhaps it was unnecessary to go so far afield. It seems that there was some land in Penshurst named *Stratfeild*; for in 1561 William Hart of Tonbridge sold to Robert Combridge of Penshurst, property called the Sandfields and four pieces of land called respectively the Garden, the Streak, Stratfeild, and another. (See Thorpe's collection at the Society of Antiquaries).

As the name so continually recurs, a pedigree has been appended. It has not been possible to provide a complete pedigree with all the ramifications, as the family was as numerous as that of the Woodgates; but it is sufficient to identify most of the family that are referred to.

The arms of the family are "*Per fess, gules and sable, three bezants, two and one.*" The arms used by Henry Streatfeild of Chidingstone (died 1762) on his coach were *Streatfeild* quartering *Fremlyn* and *Ashdowne*, and displaying those of *Beard* in a shield of pretence. The Streatfeilds of Cransted differenced their coat by a label; those of Westerham by a canton vair; those of Delaware by a label of four points ermine; those of Sevenoaks by a mullet, and those of Hever by a crescent.

John Woodgate came in for the troublous scenes of the Civil War. Kent declared strongly for the Parliament, but the Woodgates appear to have been divided in their sympathies. There is an absurd tradition in the family that the Woodgates fought for the King and were punished for their loyalty by the loss of their motto ! It is said that the motto was "Spe, Diligentia, Numine," but that no motto was used until the last century, when it was revived. "Esse quam videri" is also stated to have been the original motto.

Such an account is not likely to satisfy a genuine inquirer, who might with reason require the consideration of authoritative documents. From these it appears that Chidingstone was mulcted successively in tax, fine, voluntary contribution, ticket, excise, and sequestration. In 1643, for instance, the following sums were raised :—

	£	s.	d.
" Collected by Robert Goughue [Goodhugh] and Thomas Birsty, a tax for the raising of Volunteers otherwise called the proportion made by the sub-committee.. ..	93	11	0
Collected by Walter Tickner and John Woodgatt, a shilling tax, paid to Coll. Boothby	104	11	3
" Collected by Michael Bassett and Clement Basden, shilling tax, paid to Mr. Whitting	110	6	6
Collected by Thomas Backett [Bassett] and Robert Streatfeild, paid to Mr. Whitting, two shilling tax	220	19	8
Collected by Thomas Rodgers and William Woodgate [of Truggers], paid to Mr. Whitting, the 5th and 20th parts	348	0	0
Collected by Edward Beecher and John Norris paid to Coll. Boothby, a tax for 13 weeks..	69	8	11
	£946	17	4

Even modern taxation is made by comparison to appear inconsiderable !

The parson of Chidingstone, the Rev. Edward Powell, a staunch Royalist, was sequestered from the living in November, 1643, by Thomas Birsty and Robert Goodhugh ; and the Rev. Thomas Seyliard, M.A., put into possession, allowing Powell one-fifth of the income. The Seyliards of Delaware were the principal people in the neighbourhood at this time. The parishioners, however, who were mostly Royalists, refused to pay him tithes and the unfortunate minister was reduced to dire straits.

The Hydes were particularly active in the Parliamentary cause. Bernard Hyde, of Bore Place, in Chidingstone, one of the Commissioners of Customs, raised large sums in Chidingstone for the Parliament, in which he was assisted by his brother John. He died in 1655 and his son was created a baronet by Charles II, soon after his accession.

The Woodgates of Stonewall appear to have been Royalists, though one of the family, Captain Woodgate, commanded a troop of horse under the Parliament. This troop and others like it plundered the inhabitants without much discrimination, certainly not exempting the Woodgates and their relatives from their attentions.

The following is a list of those who lent money to the state, *i.e.*, to Parliament, upon "ticket" about 1642.

	£	s.	d.
John Seyliard, Esq.	30	0	0
Henry Streatfeild, Gent.	30	0	0
More to the committy, at Westerham ..	35	0	0
More to the committy at Aylesford ..	40	0	0
William Reeve, Gent.	25	0	0
William Woodgate, [of Truggers]	5	0	0
Robert Goughue	20	0	0
Robert Ashdowne	10	0	0
Michael Bassett	3	0	0
William Everest, junior	10	0	0
Thomas Woodgatte (<i>d</i>)	20	0	0
Robert Streatfeild	5	0	0
Richard Streatfeild, Gent.	10	0	0
	£243	0	0

With this must be read the list of those who paid a fine to Coll. Boothby amounting to £253. Amongst whom are :—

	£	s.	d.
Henry Streatfeild	5	0	0
William Woodgatt	10	0	0
Robert Goughue	30	0	0
Robert Ashdowne	20	0	0
Thomas Bassett	15	0	0
William Everest, junr.	10	0	0
Thomas Woodgatt	30	0	0
Robert Streatfeild	30	0	0
Walter Woodgate	10	0	0

Observe that there is no Seyliard or Hyde, and that Henry Streatfeild escapes with £5 only. John Woodgate of Stonewall neither "lends" money, nor pays fine!

Then there is a list of those plundered in 1643 :—

	£	s.	d.
From Walter Woodgate	7	19	8
„ Thomas Woodgate, in money	40	0	0
„ William Wallis	11	6	8
„ Robert Streatfeild, in money	22	0	0
Do. more for redeeming 2 horses	5	0	0
Do. more in linen and other goods to the value of	10	0	0
Do. one mare stagg, which the said Robert Streatfeild was offered for	10	0	0 (<i>a</i>)
Do. one mare more, worth	5	0	0 (<i>b</i>)
„ John Woodgatt, one sword	0	12	0 (<i>c</i>)
„ William Everest, one horn	8	0	0
„ Mr. Powell, one mare	10	0	0 (<i>d</i>)
„ Thomas Backett, one sword and belt	0	10	0 (<i>e</i>)
	£132	8	4

Walter Tickner charged upon free quarter with man and horse by Captain Woodgatt himself

1	0	0
£133	8	4

- (*a*) All the preceding plundered by Capt. Bonnett
 (*b*) Plundered by Capt. Westroo, Captain under Sir Mill Lusse.
 (*c*) This and the next plundered by Capt. Woodgatt.
 (*d*) By Sir Michael Lusse's Capt. Lieut.
 (*e*) By a sergeant of Capt. Woodgatt's.

One thousand Volunteers, and also such troops of horse as should be subscribed for, were to be raised in Kent, according to a Declaration of 30th May, 1643. None were to be of the trained bands. The Lord Lieutenant was to nominate a Major General and to give battle against all forces raised without the consent of Parliament. These forces were not to go out of the county without special leave. Tonbridge Castle was seized for the Parliament and fortified; £6 10 0 of the expense was charged upon the inhabitants of Chidingstone. In 1646 the Committee at Maidstone (of whom John Rivers and Thomas Seyliard were two), had the fortifications dismantled and the materials sold for £140.

Other items of interest are the disbursements of Henry Streatfeild, which include "a horse taken from him by order of the committy, delivered to Capt. Woodgate's Lieutenant, £12"; John Seyliard's disbursements; and Mr. Hyde's contributions, amounting to about £600. The latter include:—

Freely given to the committee at Knowle ..	£200	0	0
Lent to Deputy Lieutenants at Westerham for finding a horse	20	0	0
A black horse and arms sent out under Major Welden. The arms were lost and the horse not worth £5 at his return.			
More for one volunteer to Mr. Whitting	3	0	0
For the bringing in of our brethren the Scots. ..	40	0	0

A number of persons joined in finding arms "after £3 an arms for the raising of Volunteers." John Seyliard, Richard Streatfeild, Robert Streatfeild, Robert Goodhugh, Thomas Woodgatt, William Wallis and Michael Winter, Widdow Woodgatt, and others each paid £3; William Walter, and John Woodgate and others paid less.

Andrew, youngest brother of John Woodgate of Stonewall, died in September, 1641, aged 22, and was buried at Westerham. John Woodgate of Stonewall also died in his prime, and was buried at Chidingstone, in 1643, aged 41. Whether either of them was killed in an affray we do not know, but apparently no property of the Woodgates was forfeited in any way. We do not know who the Capt. Woodgate was; he may have been one of the Woodgates of Penshurst. One Edward Woodgate was very active in the Parliamentary cause and was instrumental in discovering a Royalist plot.

No will of John Woodgate can be found; but in the parochial books Richard Streatfeild his brother-in-law, and Thomas Woodgate his brother are assessed on behalf of the heirs of John Woodgate, so there must have been some testamentary instrument. Sarah Woodgate, the widow, re-married in 1647 John Ashdowne the Younger of Hever, son of John Ashdowne of Hever and Chidingstone (e).

(e) The Ashdownes were an old Chidingstone family. They figure in one of the visitations of Kent (date uncertain) as being descended from Henry Ashdowne of Chidingstone and Agnes his wife the daughter of Peter Manning of Chidingstone, a lady of twelve quarterings. Their eldest son Bartholomew married Maria daughter of Henry Pratt of Oundle, Northants. The Ashdowne arms are "Argent, a lion rampant gules, collared or and langued azure."

John Ashdowne the elder of Chidingstone, Lord of the Manor of Lewisham, Cowden, (as to one moiety), left issue by Joan his wife:—

(a) John the younger of Hever, married Sarah daughter of Richard Streatfeild, relict of John Woodgate of Stonewall: left issue Henry, buried 1657 at Chidingstone, and Sarah, daughter and heiress, married Henry Streatfeild.

(b) Ann, married Henry Pigott of Chidingstone, and left issue Nicholas and four daughters.

(c) William, succeeded to the Manor.

(d) Richard, who left issue Anne, John, and Henry, the latter of whom had left to him by his grandfather in 1677 an annuity of £14 towards his expenses at school and at the University.

Sarah Woodgate, the only daughter of John Woodgate of Stonewall, married John Ashdowne of Rendsley Heath. The marriage licence, dated 2nd June, 1663, describes her as of Penshurst, maiden, about 19, with consent of her mother; John Ashdowne as about 26. To be at Penshurst, where it was duly solemnised on 11th June. This licence was obtained on the same day as that of her brother William.

From the parish register of Hever it appears that the Ashdownes lived at Hever Place, and Hever Lodge.

The marriage articles were dated 3rd March, 1647, and Sarah's brother Richard Streatfeild was trustee. By these John Ashdowne granted his wife an annual rent charge of £15 a year out of Lorkins, Jemmetfield, Lorkins Hope, Chidingstone Cross and 28a. in Penshurst; and by a deed dated the next day John Ashdowne the father in consideration of the marriage settled the above-mentioned lands, together with a house in Chidingstone, occupied by Richard Streatfeild, Kitchen Croft, Martin's Field (10a.) and Hallfield (14a.) on his son subject to his own life interest in part of the lands. The following year the father made further settlements on his son, including the moiety of his manor in Cowden.

John Ashdowne the younger, died intestate in 1654, and his widow took out letters of administration on 20th October. His personal estate exceeded £500 in value; and from the inventory of effects we note the names of the rooms of his house at Hever, namely:—the hall, parlour, old parlour, drink buttery and room adjoining, brew house, chamber over brew-house, chamber over entry, chamber over hall, milk house and chamber over, cheese press house, and chamber over, chamber over parlour, and chamber and garret over old parlour. Among the effects are a fowling piece, two swords, and two belts. Sarah Ashdowne died in 1686 and was buried at Hever. The only surviving child of her second marriage, Sarah Ashdowne, married Henry Streatfeild of High Street House, whose descendants the Streatfeilds of Chidingstone are entitled to quarter the Ashdowne arms.

To return to the family at Stonewall. William the eldest son (*ee*), who was only four years old at his father's death, was brought up at Hever and eventually married Alice, only surviving daughter of Richard Streatfeild of High Street House (with whom he had a handsome portion) and sister of Henry who married Sarah Ashdowne as already mentioned. The marriage licence was dated 2nd June, 1663, and authorised the wedding to be at St. Pancras, Soper Lane, London.

William Woodgate inherited Stonewall and the family estates, subject to his mother's dower; and by his careful conduct very considerably increased their extent. William's uncle Thomas had died when William was about 22, leaving him considerable benefits; but he took more largely under the will of his uncle Richard Streatfeild of Chested, who died in 1679. It is somewhat curious that, of his two rich bachelor uncles, his uncle Woodgate should have left so much to the Streatfeilds, and that his uncle Streatfeild should have left most of his property to the Woodgates.

Thomas Woodgate, by his will dated 16th November, 1656, being then "very sick and weak," left £5 to the poor of Chidingstone; £50 each to his nephews, William and Richard Streatfeild; £100 to his nieces Joan and Sarah Streatfeild, and £200 to his niece Susan Streatfeild; and the rest of his personalty (except 20/- to his servant William Winter, and three small legacies) to his sister Sarah Streatfeild, whom he made sole executrix. His uncle William Wallis and Michael Bassett were appointed overseers. As to his lands, he left Skipreed, Frenden, and other property to his

(*ee*) John, the other son, seems to have married Elizabeth Beecher (Hasted). On 4th June, 1674, a John Woodgate married Elizabeth Beecher, at Cudham; and this probably is the John in question. He seems to have died very soon afterwards.

The Beechers were an old family of Penshurst. One of them, Henry, was Alderman and Sheriff of London in 1570. He died in 1571, leaving issue by Alice Heron his wife (sister of Sir Nicholas Heron of Edgecombe) Edward; Bartholomew, who died in Ireland; Henry, married Edith daughter of John Riche, Apothecary to Queen Elizabeth; and three daughters. Edward Beecher, the eldest, married Frances relict of Francis Coppinger and relict of Thomas Lord Burgh, K.G., Lord Deputy of Ireland. Seyer Coppinger, her second son, and eventually heir to his mother, by will dated 1656 devised his estates to William Walter of the Trench, ancestor of the Walters of Tonbridge.

Another branch settled in Bletchingley. Henry, son of James Beecher of Chidingstone, married Elizabeth daughter of Edward Baker of Bletchingley, and his son Richard continued the family there. The arms are: "Vair, argent and gules, on a canton or a buck's head caboshed sable." The family owned Vexsour, Penshurst, and at one time (it seems) Chested.

sister Sarah Streatfeild for life, and after her death Skipreed was to go to her son Robert Streatfeild, and Frenden to his godson and nephew John Woodgate; and a house at Penshurst to nephew Thomas Streatfeild. He left to William Woodgate, his nephew Knights, Muddings (in the occupation of William Wallis) and half the lands which had descended to him from his brother Andrew, subject however, to £50 to his niece Sarah Woodgate payable at 21; the other half of such lands he left to his nephew John Woodgate. The will was proved by Sarah Streatfeild, at London, 11th April, 1660.

Richard Streatfeild, the other uncle, left all his personal estate to his nephew William Woodgate, except £5 to the poor of Penshurst and £5 to the poor of Chidingstone, £100 each to his sisters Sarah Ashdowne and Obedience Leigh, and £100 each to his nephews William, Richard, and Thomas Streatfeild, and £100 to his kinsman Richard Streatfeild of High Street House. William Woodgate was made sole executor. Chested in Penshurst, Gildredge (f), Buckhurst in the occupation of William Woodgate, Seedrobs, and divers other lands in Chidingstone, Penshurst, Lankerton Green, Kent and Sussex, were left to William Woodgate for his life and after his death to his son Richard Woodgate.

This will was a bitter disappointment to the three Streatfeild nephews. William of Delaware, Richard of Ford Place, Chidingstone, and Thomas of Vexsons, Penshurst, who were induced to contest the will, but without success. Richard had, they alleged, "oftentimes said in his lifetime that he would give and devise all his lands and tenements to them and their heirs"; they were astounded when "Mr. Henry Streatfeild did tell them of the death of the said Richard Streatfeild, and that he had made a will and did show them a paper writing which he the said Henry Streatfeild did say was the will and did read some part thereof to them."

William Woodgate in 1693 purchased the Manor and lands of Bokinfold, lying in the parishes of Yalding, Brenchley, Horsemonden, and Goudhurst. The ancient mansion house had been visited by Edward I and was at one time surrounded by a dense forest called the Forest of Buckenwald. For further particulars of this property the reader is referred to Hasted's *History of Kent*.

William Woodgate likewise purchased Ferbies in Speldhurst, an ancient property that gave the name to the family that owned it, for particulars of which reference also is made to Hasted. He settled it on Sarah, his only daughter, in marriage with William Durrant of Great Street, Framfield, Sussex (g).

(f) There is an old counterpart of lease in possession of the family, dated 28th September, 1769, whereby the Rev. Francis Woodgate, of Mountfield demised unto Richard Delves of Tunbridge Wells, Butcher, for 11 years at an annual rent of £48 the messuage and farm called Gildredge with buildings, etc., and 80a. in Chidingstone, reserving all timber, minerals, royalties, and rights of hunting, hawking, and fishing.

(g) The Durrants are an ancient family of Framfield and like the Stones and Peckhams were originally Dissenters. There was a meeting house in the parish near Little Street, which was frequented by most of the inhabitants, until Mr. Wharton became vicar (1728-1771). His courteous behaviour and careful avoidance of personal reflections on those who differed from him in points of religion procured him general esteem, induced the principal dissenters to hear him preach, and finally reconciled them to a constant attendance, so that the meeting house became neglected and was soon afterwards pulled down. The Durrants, however, were baptised and married in the parish church, and were buried in the churchyard beneath the East window, where there existed several altar monuments to their memory nearly two hundred years ago; they were then ruinous and probably are now gone.

There is a tradition that Framfield Church Tower fell on a Sunday evening in 1667, soon after service. The following year the foundations of a new belfry were laid, but after some progress the work was stopped on the pretence that the inhabitants were unable to bear the expense. The truth was, that the Durrants, Stones, and Peckhams, who were the principal people in the place, would not allow the work to proceed. The initials D and S are carved on the N.W. angle, being those of the churchwardens Durrant and Stone.

The other principal families were the Peckhams of Arches, with whom the Durrants frequently intermarried; Gages of Bently; Warnets of Hempsted; and Smiths of Little Street and

William Woodgate's eldest son was John ; he married Rose Birsty, the " fair Rose of Kent," and was the first Woodgate of Summerhill, but for the present that subject must be postponed. The next son, William Woodgate of Chidingstone, married Hannah Coney of Sevenoaks, but died without issue at a comparatively early age.

Henry the third son was, as far as we know, the first attorney in the family. He settled at Goudhurst, where the Bokinfold property lay, and made various purchases of land there and elsewhere, which seems to suggest that he carried on a flourishing practice (*h*). He married Lydia, daughter of Thomas Crompt of Maidstone,

Highlands, which was purchased by William Durrant, who left it to his second son Robert. The eldest son, also named William, lived at Great Street and died without issue in 1775 ; his widow continued to live there till her death. Robert Durrant, who lived with his uncle Stephen Woodgate at Sevenoaks until the latter's death in 1754, was the last of the family ; there is a marble Tablet on the north wall of the nave at Framfield :—

" In a vault beneath are deposited the remains of Robert Durrant, Esq., who died December 13th, 1799, at the advanced age of 84 years. By a regular course of temperance and moderation, he enjoyed his health and faculties with less interruption than usually falls to the lot of humanity. His manners were unassuming ; his integrity unsullied. This monument was erected by his grateful nephews William, Thomas, John, and Henry Woodward, to whom he bequeathed the bulk of his property."

Richard Durrant of Great Street, Framfield, bu. 24th May, 1714. Left issue

1. *William*, of whom presently.
2. John, bu. 3rd February, 1696.
3. (? Elizabeth m. 25th November, 1714, Edmund Calverley of Framfield and had issue.)

William of Great Street, living 1727, m. at Withyam 23rd December, 1707, Sarah, daughter of William Woodgate of Stonewall, High Sheriff of Kent, b. 1677, and had issue

1. William of Great Street, bapt. 30th September, 1708, d. 1775 s.p.
2. Sarah, bapt. 8th December, 1711, m. 8th March, 1742, William Peckham of Arches, Framfield, Lord of the Manor of Peckhams and Arches. He d. 27th August, 1770, aged 50 ; she 11th January, 1776, leaving

(*a*) Sarah, m. Rev. William Woodward, M.A., Rector of Plumpton. He d. 26th February, 1786, aged 43 ; she 1st May, 1823, aged 79, leaving Sarah, William, Thomas of Highlands, John of Great Street, and Henry.

(*b*) Mary, m. Rev. Henry Courthope, M.A., Vicar of Brenchley.

3. John bapt. 9th June, 1713, bu. 30th August, 1742. (" Doctor.")
4. Robert of Highlands, Framfield, bapt. 12th November, 1715, d. unm. 13th December, 1799.
5. Richard, bapt. 4th October, 1716, bu. 15th February, 1728.
6. Stephen, bapt. 11th December, 1719, bu. 18th May, 1723.

The following are extracts from Framfield Registers :—

<i>Bapt.</i>	1688.	July 11.	Isaden (?) son of James Durrant.
	1690.	June 28.	Anne daughter of Nicholas and Martha Durrant.
<i>Marriages.</i>	1603.	May 26.	Giles Durrant and Bridget Peckham.
	1624.	Feb. 9.	John Peckham and Sarah Durrant.
	1637.	May 9.	Magnus Byrne and Mary Durrant.
	1703.	Dec. 23.	Mr. Durrant and Mary Jenkins, both of Rotherfield.
<i>Burials.</i>	1693.	Feb. 5.	Nicholas Durrant.
	1723.	May 18.	Nicholas Durrant, infant.
	1737.	Nov. 3.	Mrs. Lucy Durrant.

- (*h*) Henry Woodgate died at Goudhurst in 1714, in his forty-sixth year, leaving six children of whom John the eldest son was then only fifteen. Letters of administration were taken out by his son William on 26th April, 1721. The children were apparently brought up at Stonewall by their grandfather, who refers in his will to " the chest of linen brought from Goudhurst." There is in existence an old book of Stonewall days marked with some of their names : " Wm. Woodgate," " Lydia Woodgate," " Seth Palmer," " Mrs. Ann Stretfield." Henry Woodgate seems to have been a man of considerable fortune, Part of the inheritance which devolved on his children was a succession of suits in chancery.

The first was in 1732 against William Tempest of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-law, respecting a small property at Hartley Quarter, Cranbrook, and some 34a. of woodlands in Cranbrook near the Beggar's Oak, which Woodgate had purchased of Thomas Austen in 1709. Woodgate died intestate in 1714, leaving John aged 15, William aged 12, and Henry aged 8, and " no one to

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URSULA
m. JAMES
BLECHINDEN.

DOROTHY,
m. SIR
EDWARD
WATERHOUSE.

NICHOLAS CROMPE
of Maidstone.

REV. JOHN CROMPE--ANNE
of Maidstone.
Will dated 1667.

JOHN HENRY THOMAS

JOHN
d. unm.,
1722.

WILLIAM
of T
bu, 11th ge.

ANN--JAMES FREMLIN
d. in 1754.

LYDIA.
bapt. 16th
Dec., 1725, WILLIAM
bapt. 27th
Apl., 1727,
bu. 23rd bu. 1st
Dec., 1725. Apl., 1728.

HENRY WOODGATE--SARAH SWAYNE
of St. Faith's, of Tonbridge
London,
bapt. 1st Dec.,
1728,
m. at Tonbridge,
5th Jan., 1760.

SARAH JOHN FLOYD MARY

YD

SARAH FLOYD.

whose ancestor John Crompe of Farley, Sussex, married Joan, daughter of Sir Martin

look after their interests." Tempest and his son-in-law James Beckett of Cranbrook, Surgeon, claimed the whole property under an old mortgage made by the Austens. Beckett describes the woodlands as a "poor sandy hungry sort of land, known and charged by the name of Starve Goose."

The next suit was in 1737, against David Fuller of Maidstone, Esq. Woodgate had purchased 40a. of wood lands called "The Woodlands" at Marden of one Thomas Stephens for £320, subject to a mortgage to Nicholas Amhurst, Gent., which Woodgate paid off and had transferred to the Rev. John Crompe to attend the inheritance, and subject to two annuities of £5 each. The annuities became vested in Fuller who claimed in respect of them. The lands had been let from 1715 to 1731 to John Ellis at £18 per annum.

There was also a suit in 1707 between Henry Woodgate and George Walker of Sittingbourne, Gent. Walker sold to Woodgate on Boxing Day, 1704, two farms containing 36a. of land and 15a. of woodland, at Marden, adjoining other land of Henry Woodgate. After the sale, one Thomas Jeffreys and others set up a claim to the land prior to Walker's; Walker, who was one of Woodgate's clients, asked Woodgate to brief John Higham, a barrister, to defend the ejectment suit at Assizes, when the plaintiffs were nonsuited. Woodgate himself attended the trial. Complications then ensued between Woodgate and Walker. Among the statement of accounts are "Paid to Mr. Higham, £7 10 6; Paid by Mr. Durrant £5."

John Woodgate, Henry's eldest son, died intestate and unmarried in 1722, and letters of administration of his estate were granted to his brother William. The lands therefore descended by gavelkind to William and Henry equally. Some of the land (namely two houses, 115 acres of arable, 60 acres meadow, 80 acres pasture, and 5 acres woodland, in Bokingfold) was conveyed by Henry Woodgate in 1710 to John Streatfeild of Penshurst, Gent., as Trustee; and in 1721 the same John Streatfeild and Sarah his wife, by the direction of William Woodgate, conveyed three houses and about 20 acres "with the spring of water in the hollow field near the mast pit" at or near Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells, to Thomas Jordan, Citizen and Turner of London.

Henry Woodgate likewise owned three houses in Stone Street, Maidstone, between the small bridge and a place called Wren's, and 8 acres at Tovell in Maidstone. Also a house and 80 acres in Ulcomb, which afterwards belonged to the youngest son, Henry.

The second son William became a merchant, first at Westerham (1721) and then at Tonbridge; but his business never prospered, and was eventually bought on his death by his uncle Stephen Woodgate, of Sevenoaks, to save it from creditors, and by him given to William's son John in 1750. Stephen died in 1754 and on 30th November of that year John entered into partnership with his mother Margaret, who seems to have been a woman of capacity and had carried on the business for some years. By her will, dated 4th December, 1754, and proved 14th January, 1761, she left everything to her daughter Anne Woodgate, whom she made sole executrix.

Of the daughters, Lydia and Sarah died unmarried; the third, Ann, married James Fremling and had issue. Sarah lived at Sevenoaks. By her will dated 10th September, 1759, she gave one guinea to each maid-servant living with her at the time of her death. £5 to cousin Susanah Hynes (daughter of uncle Thomas Woodgate), 10/- each to ten poorest inhabitants of Sevenoaks, £200 to niece Ann Woodgate (daughter of late brother, William), £100 to niece Ann Weatherall, £100 each to great nieces Ann and Sarah Floyd, all wearing apparel to nieces Ann Woodgate and Sarah Floyd, linen to sister Lydia Woodgate for life, then to four nieces; all other furniture in her newly built house at Sevenoaks to Lydia for life, then to the Floyds; New Tye in Chidingstone and Heaver (some 100 acres), Low Buckhurst in Chidingstone and Heaver, and Nespridges in Heaver, to Lydia Woodgate for life and then to her three nephews Henry and John Woodgate and James Fremling; Farm at Cocum Hill, Westerham, to be sold. Residue to Henry Woodgate, James Fremling, and Sarah Floyd. Henry Woodgate and James Fremling, executors. Will proved 5th April, 1760, by Henry Woodgate alone.

The farm at Cocum Hill was sold for £580. Sarah Woodgate left, as part of her estate, the sum of £500 lent on mortgage of tolls to the Trustees of Tonbridge Turnpikes.

The other son, Henry, became a prosperous Citizen and Stationer of London. He married in 1731 at St. Paul's Cathedral, with Archbishop's licence, Ann daughter of Joseph Downing of St. Bartholomew the Great, being himself described as of St. Magnus the Martyr. Her marriage portion, paid over to Henry Woodgate was £2,000, in consideration of which Woodgate conveyed the Ulcomb property by settlement dated 8th and 9th December, 1730, to her father, and Henry Overton of London as trustees on the usual marriage trusts. Henry soon died leaving a widow and two infant children; administration of his estate was granted to Ann, his widow, on 7th August, 1740. The widow died in 1741 in the parish of St. Bartholomew the Great leaving £500 to her son Joseph Woodgate, £500 to her daughter Ann Woodgate, £50 to Mrs. Mary Fremling, daughter of John Fremling, and a few small legacies; her late husband's gold watch in black shagreen case, his gold studs, and diamond ring, and her own diamond hoop ring to Joseph at 21, and the residue to her honoured mother Martha Downing, the sole executrix, who proved the will on the 15th February, 1742.

Crompte of Maidstone.

SHEET No. IV.



whose ancestor John Crompe of Farley, Sussex, married Joan, daughter of Sir Martin

look after their interests." Tempest and his son-in-law James Beckett of Cranbrook, Surgeon, claimed the whole property under an old mortgage made by the Austens. Beckett describes the woodlands as a "poor sandy hungry sort of land, known and charged by the name of Starve Goose."

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Calthorp, of Hicklinge, son of Sir Martin Calthorp, Lord Mayor of London, who was acknowledged by Queen Elizabeth to be her cousin. Henry Woodgate's children, therefore were descended from the Plantagenets. The Crompes were a well-known family of Maidstone; John Crompe was Mayor in 1621, and Thomas Crompe died in 1645 during his mayoralty. Thomas married Lydia, daughter of William Gull, Town Clerk and Recorder of Maidstone, by Lydia his wife, the sister of Sir Edward Whetenhall of East Peckham.

Thomas Woodgate, the fourth son, was a citizen and "Ironmonger" of London, that is, was "free" of the Ironmongers' Company. In those days the iron industry flourished exceedingly in Kent and Sussex, notably at Cowden and Lamberhurst. The iron rails round St. Paul's Cathedral were forged at Lamberhurst. The furnaces belonged to the principal families in the county; and it is probable that there was some connection between Thomas Woodgate and the local iron foundries. Even now the numerous deep holes at Cowden and elsewhere afford evidence of the former existence of the furnaces. Eventually the industry failed owing to the supply of wood, for fuel, becoming exhausted, and the competition of iron foundries situated in coal centres. For a full account of this interesting subject, refer to *Archaeologia Cantiana*, vol. xxi, pp. 308 et seq.

Thomas Woodgate married Susanna daughter of Thomas Seyliard of Salmans, Penshurst, one of the oldest families in the county, descended from Ralph de la Seyliards, residing at Seyliards in Hever in the time of King Stephen; Seyliards remained in the family uninterrupted until Sir Thomas Seyliard sold it about 1700, to John Petley. (N.B.—Jane Seyliard his sister married Ralph Petley of Riverhead) (i).

Of these two children, Ann married Thomas Weatherall of London, and Joseph died unmarried at an early age, leaving by will dated 5th and proved 11th November, 1756, £500 to his "dear and honoured grandmother Mrs. Martha Downing as a token of my gratitude to her for her care and goodness to me during the whole course of my life." £100 to brother-in-law-Thomas Weatherall, £50, to aunt Mrs. Anne Horne, £50 to friend Mr. John Marsh and £50 to kinswoman Mary Saunders. All his real estate in Kent and elsewhere and the residue of personalty to sister Ann Weatherall; Thomas Weatherall sole executor. Both wills were witnessed by Daniel Fox of the Six Clerks Office, Chancery Lane, the family solicitor. Joseph is described as of the Parish of St. Ethelburgha in the City of London, Stationer.

- (i) The Seyliards lived at Seyliards until Robert, eighth in descent from Ralph, made Delaware in Brasted his residence. The pedigrees drawn up by Hasted, Streatfeild, and Thorpe all conflict in the most essential particulars, but that here given is a compromise between the three.

William Seyliard of Delaware, Hever (son of John Seyliard of Delaware and Alice his wife, daughter and heir of Richard Franklin of Reading) married Dorothy, daughter of William Crownden of Tunstall, and died in 1595, aged 39. His wife, remarried to Michael Beresford of Westerham, died in 1613, aged 50, leaving issue

1. *Sir Thomas Seyliard* of Delaware.
2. *John Seyliard* of Salmans, Penshurst.
3. Anne, m. William Seyliard of Edenbridge.
4. Francis.
- 5-8. James, William, George, and Elizabeth; all dead in 1613.

John of Salmans, of the Petty Bag Office, Feodary of Kent, bapt. 1580, m. 1632 Frances, daughter of John Reeve and widow of Thomas Streatfeild of Shoreham, and had issue.

1. *Thomas*, of Salmans.
2. *John*, of London.

Thomas, the elder son, married Mary, daughter of Robert Holman of Pendhill, Bletchingley, M.P., and left issue

1. *John* of Pendhill of whom presently.
2. Susanna, m. at Penshurst 16th December, 1695, Thomas Woodgate of London (b. 1670, bu. 4th October, 1706, at Chidingstone) and had issue.
3. Mary, bapt. 1656, m. 1678 Richard Antrobus of London.
4. Frances, m. Waldron of London.
5. Anne, m. Rev. Kidby of Essex.
6. Thomas of Penshurst, M.D., bapt. 1653. s.p.

The fifth surviving son was Richard, the devisee in remainder under the will of

John of Pendhill m. Margaret, daughter of Jeffery Amherst of Riverhead, Bencher of Gray's Inn, and died 5th February, 1745, aged 83. (She died 23rd November, 1712, aged 58) leaving

1. John Seyliard of Pendhill, m. 1737, Anne Hunt, and died at Watlington, 1750, leaving one child, Anne, who died in 1760, aged 12.
2. Margaret, m. Pellat.
3. Elizabeth.
4. Annabella.
5. Thomas of London, had issue Hester Wade Seyliard, heiress of Pendhill, who married George Scullard of London.

Sir Thomas Seyliard of Delaware m. Elizabeth Beaumont of Gracedieu, and had issue

1. *Sir John*.
- 2-6. Elizabeth, Sarah, Ann, Mary, and Dorothy.

Sir John Seyliard, Bart., of Chidingstone, married the daughter of Brocket of Herts., and had issue

1. *Sir Thomas*.
2. Jane, m. Ralph Petley of Riverhead.
3. Eleanor, m. Richard Farewell, Barrister.
4. Mary, m. George Robinson.

Sir Thomas, of Boxley Abbey, m. 1st Frances only daughter and heir of *Sir Francis Wyatt* of Boxley, by whom he left issue

1. *Sir Thomas* of Boxley Abbey, m. Elizabeth Fortescue, and died leaving two children Margaret and Elizabeth, both s.p.

He married secondly Margaret daughter of Philip, Lord Wharton, and had issue

2. Philadelphia.

John Seyliard of the Petty Bag Office purchased Salmans in 1638 of *Sir Thomas Willoughby*, Justice of the Common Pleas. He was Feodary of Kent, and married Frances, daughter of *John Reeve* and widow of *Thomas Streatfeild*, son of *Richard Streatfeild* of Chidingstone. In the chancel at Chidingstone there is a very fine freestone altar tomb, faced and topped with black marble, and a long Latin inscription to her memory.

“ . . . *Viris duobus juncta, Thomae Streatfeildo prius*

Deinde Johanni Seyliard, utrisq; bonos

Natalis sortitis et honestas familias

Ambob' chara pariter et facunda juit. . . .”

Facing the nave are three achievements of arms; the first *Streatfeild* impaling *Reeve*; the second *Seyliard* (azure, a chief ermine, a crescent or for difference) impaling *Reeve*; the third, *Seyliard* and eight quarterings. The last letters on the monument are indistinct; but the arms are beautifully clear, having been repainted by Miss Bracebridge of Atherton (whose mother had been Harriet Streatfeild of Chidingstone) in 1816.

Thomas Seyliard of Salmans, his son, married Mary, daughter and heiress of *Robert Holman* of Pendhill, Blechingley, M.P. for Surrey in 1654; his ancestor *Sir John Holman* was standard bearer at Bosworth Field. Of their children, Susanna married *Thomas Woodgate*, and John succeeded to Salmans and Pendhill, but took up his abode at Pendhill and married Margaret daughter of *Jeffrey Amhurst* of Riverhead, Bencher of Gray's Inn. Salmans is a house yet standing, large and comfortable and typically Kentish; it frequently figures in the Old English paintings of Dendy Sadler. Pendhill was a fine gabled house of a different character altogether, something after the style of Summerhill; there is a large plate of it in Bray's *Surrey*.

Thomas Woodgate lived in the parish of St. Sepulchre in the City of London. He died at an early age and was buried at Chidingstone on 4th October, 1706. A stone near the altar rails marks the spot; it is inscribed:—

“ Here lyeth the body of
Thomas Woodgate, late
Citizen and Ironmonger of
London, son of William
Woodgate of this Parish, Gent.,
who departed this Life
ye 30th of September, 1706 in ye
34th of his Age
He married Susanna
the daughter of Thomas
Seyliard of Penshurst,
Esqr., by whom he had
2 sons and 4 daughters.”

The inscription is wrong; he left one son and two daughters (probably the stonemason's error). Administration of his estate was granted 16th November, 1706, to Susannah, his relict. One of his daughters married *William Davies*, Citizen and Grocer of London; the other married *Philip Hinds* and had issue, *William Hinds*.

his great uncle Richard Streatfeild, of Chested (see p. 29). During his parents lifetime he lived with them at Stonewall; we know, from a will, that his room there was known as "the milk house chamber." At their death he removed to Chested, where he died in 1724, unmarried, and was buried at Chidingstone on 29th March (*k*).

The sixth surviving son was Stephen Woodgate, of Sevenoaks Weald. He, too, was a bachelor; his niece Sarah Woodgate (daughter of Henry) and nephew Robert Durrant lived with him. He died in 1754, and his nephew Francis Woodgate by will directed that a monument should be raised to his memory, which does not seem to have been done (*l*).

William Woodgate, the son, lived with his uncle John Seyliard at Pendhill. He died unmarried in 1735, and by his will (dated 20th March, 1734, proved 2nd July, 1735) left £105 for mourning and rings equally to be divided between his uncle John Seyliard and his cousins John, Thomas, Elizabeth, and Annabella Seyliard, and Margaret Pellat. 10 guineas for mourning and a ring to dear uncle Stephen Woodgate of Sevenoaks Weald, and cousin Sarah Woodgate, living with Stephen; and the same to his sisters Susannah Hinds and Mary Davies, and their husbands; and £30 to John Seyliard's servants to buy them mourning. Nephew William Hinds £300 at 21. Servant James Stone all wearing apparel; dear cousin Elizabeth Seyliard, "wall-nutt tree beaurow"; cousin Annabella, £40; cousin Margaret Pellat £20; Wm. Dunkley £10 for mourning and a ring, also 2 guineas to buy a pair of pistols. Two sisters, £50 each. Miss Margaret Mille and Mr. John Butler, £1 each for a ring. Silver watch and bay horse to Richard Simons of Blechingley. "According to a mutual agreement between my dear friend John Seyliard junr. and myself that the longest liver should have a memorial of the other's respect and affection, I give and bequeath to the said John Seyliard, junr., six guineas to buy him a gunn and my best saddle and bridle." He, and Stephen Woodgate, executors; residue for William Hinds, nephew, at 21 years of age. To be buried in Blechingley churchyard. Farm and lands called Frenden in Chidingstone in occupation of John Head to be sold by executors.

(*k*) The will of Richard Woodgate was dated 23rd March, 1723 and proved 16th April, 1724, in the Shoreham Peculiars. Being then "sick and weak in body" he gave to his sister Sarah Durrant and William her husband, and their children William and Sarah £5 each; two sons of brother Henry, £4 each; three daughters of brother Henry, £5 each; brother Thomas' son £4, and his two daughters, £5 each; the residue to brother Stephen, the sole executor. To Stephen he also left the house and lands called Chested and Seed Cubbs in Chidingstone, Caseinghurst Mead, in Penhurst, Guildridge and house and lands called Buckhurst in Heaver and Chidingstone, all in his own occupation; also a house and lands in Penhurst, a house in the "town" of Chidingstone occupied by William Pope and Thomas Eagleton, and all other lands in Chidingstone and Penhurst; to Richard Durrant, nephew, two houses at Lankerton Green.

(*l*) Stephen Woodgate's will, dated 25th November, 1753, provided as follows. Being then "in tolerable good health" he gave to the poor of Chidingstone £10, and of Penhurst £5; £100 each to James, Sarah, and Mary Fremling, children of niece Ann Fremling widow and Mr. James Fremling deceased, charged on Frenden and Tophill. Niece Mary, wife of William Davies of London, daughter of brother Thomas, life annuity of £12 out of Frenden, and the same annuity to her sister Susanna Hinds. £20 each to Henry, John, and Sarah Woodgate, Alice Children, Rose wife of Mr. George Swayne, Elizabeth and Ann, children of late brother John Woodgate of Summer Hill, charged on Chested. To nephew the Rev. Francis Woodgate of Munfield, Frenden in Chidingstone containing 100 acres occupied by John Head; 17 acres in Chidingstone called Silcocks Meads, and all other lands in occupation of Robert Head; Tophill in Chidingstone containing 60 acres, in occupation of Thomas Butcher; meadow land in Chidingstone near Chafford Bridge called Elepans; all other lands in occupation of Butcher; Chested and Seedrops, occupied by Samuel Waite; house and 10a. in Chidingstone occupied by Thomas Wallis; cottage and garden in Chidingstone occupied by Robert Hollamby; and all other lands occupied by Wallis or Hollamby; also Gildredge in Chidingstone containing 80 acres, occupied by himself, subject to 10 years enjoyment thereof by nephew Robert Durrant from 29th September next after Stephen's death; and all the residue of his real estate. He gave to niece Sarah, daughter of brother Henry, New Tye in Chidingstone and Heaver containing 100 acres, occupied by John Fuller; Low Buckhurst containing 50 acres in Heaver and Chidingstone; and 12 acres called Nespridges adjoining, all occupied by James Knight; property at Cocum Hill and elsewhere in Westerham occupied by Thomas Hollamby, subject to legacies of £100 to Anne Woodgate, daughter of late nephew Henry Woodgate of London, Stationer, £200 to Henry, son of late nephew William Woodgate of Tonbridge deceased; and £200 to Joseph, son of Henry Woodgate of London, Stationer, deceased; niece Lydia Woodgate, £300. The capital message and lands in Sevenoaks where he then dwelt and the several houses and lands thereto belonging; the house and 10a. at Hall's Green, Sevenoaks, in his own occupation; and cottage and garden at Bowzell Gate, Chevening, to nephew Robert Durrant, subject to legacy of £200 to niece Ann Fremling, widow. Residue of personalty to Robert Durrant and niece Sarah, daughter of Henry Woodgate equally, they the sole executors. The will (drawn by Francis Austen on nine sheets) was proved at London, 2nd August, 1754, by both executors.

In 1699 on 20th November, William Woodgate of Stonewall became High Sheriff of Kent. There is an odd tradition that he went down in his official capacity to meet William of Orange on his landing. As the landing was in 1688 and at Torbay, not in Kent at all, it is difficult to see how this could have been the case; unless indeed he went to Torbay as an ordinary magistrate; he was not High Sheriff for another eleven years. Again, the landing may have been on the King's return from one of his foreign expeditions, in 1699, when Dover would probably be the place of landing. In this way the tradition may be accounted for.

William Woodgate died in 1717, and was buried, according to the directions contained in his will, "in linen." In 1678 an Act was passed with a view to the encouragement of the woollen industry of the country, prohibiting burials in anything other than woollen, except on payment of a fine of £5. This fine had therefore to be paid on William's burial, which took place on the 23rd May, as also on his widow's, which took place the following year. The bulk of William Woodgate's land had been settled on the marriage of himself and his children, as he states in the will.

The will was dated 24th January, 1714, and directs that he should be buried in the Parish church. He gives 50/- to the poor of Chidingstone. To his dear and loving wife Alice, £200, best milk cow, table and chairs in the parlour at Stonewall, the bedstead in the parlour chamber, all the flax and hemp, six silver spoons, a silver cup, six bushels of wheat, and such other linen and goods as she may select. To son John, three silver salts. Son Richard, bedstead "in the milk house chamber where he lyeth," silver two-handled cup marked W.W.A., a chest of linen made and put up for him by his mother, and six pewter dishes. Son Stephen, the best horse or mare, a similar chest of linen, a silver tankard, his silver-hilted sword and best set of silver buttons. Daughter Sarah Durrant, £20, three pairs of flax, hemp and tow sheets, 18 flaxen napkins, table cloth, six old-fashioned silver spoons one whereof was marked in the bowl. To her son William Durrant, £5 at 21. Grandson William Woodgate, son of Thomas deceased, £5. Grandson William Woodgate, son of John, a silver cup. Sarah, Ann and Lydia Woodgate, daughters of son Henry deceased, one "chest of linen which was brought from Goudhurst," the chest to their brother William. Lydia Woodgate, grand-daughter, £50 at 21.

Grandson William Woodgate, son of John, house and lands at Chidingstone called Hilders, purchased of William Kent. House opposite the church occupied by Fortunatus Terry to wife Alice for life then to son Richard, subject to £40 to godson William Woodgate, son of son Henry, at the end of his apprenticeship if he be put out an apprentice, otherwise at 21. [N.B.—This house is one of those which form the "High Street" and are justly celebrated for their beauty]. Son Richard, all the goods that were in the house at Chested, and were left by his uncle, Richard Streatfeild. To son Stephen, the capital messuage called Lawrence with the premises belonging and 73 acres in Sevenoaks, in occupation of Stephen; also 11a. of coppice adjoining, being part of lands called Rotherden, next Hale Oak Green; also house and lands called Crowhurst, containing 93 acres, including Crowhurst Mead and Lonedownes, in Sevenoaks and Chevening, in his own occupation. Sons John and Stephen, executors; proved by them 19th January, 1718.

His widow did not long survive him; she was buried in 1718, on 23rd January, "in linen," in the parish church. By her will, dated 18th November, 1717, being then "sick in body," she gives £20 each to son John and Rose his wife, and 20/- each to their children William, Sarah, and Alice, and to Rose a bedpan; to William, also, a fire-pan and tongs, andirons, flock bed in the maids' chamber at Stonewall, and to Alice a chest there; son Richard, £20; daughter Sarah Durrant, £20, a chest and its contents, all her gold rings, wearing apparel, a chest of drawers in the closet next the parlour chamber, a trunk in the closet next the hall chamber, and certain goods in the hall chamber; to William Durrant (Sarah's husband), 20/-, and to their children William and Sarah 20/- each. John, Sarah, Ann, and Lydia

(children of son Henry deceased), 20/- each ; son Stephen, pewter and plates, brewing vessels, all the furniture in the parlour and parlour chamber, pair of curtains and counterpanes in the hall chamber, a cow, fat hog, and other goods. Residue to Stephen, the sole executor. Proved by Stephen 19th January, 1718, in the Shoreham Peculiars.

From this time Summerhill became, in fact, the chief family seat ; though as will be seen Stonewall was for some years deemed of equal consequence.

CHAPTER III.

EARLY SUMMERHILL PERIOD.

John Woodgate, the eldest son of William Woodgate of Stonewall the High Sheriff, married the "fair Rose of Kent," the beautiful and wealthy heiress of a neighbouring squire. This was in 1693, some twenty-four years before his father's death.

The Birstys, otherwise Birchenstys or Bursters, were lords of the manor of Birchensty, in Ardingley, Sussex, from a time of remote antiquity. Thomas, fourth in descent from John Birchensty of Birchensty, was the first to use the surname in the contracted form, and was likewise the first to remove from the family home. He married one of the Cotty's of Edenbridge. (N.B.—Seyliard, Cotty, and Holmden were perhaps the chief families of Edenbridge at that time). He was a man of law, and "Serjeant" to the hapless Queen Anne of Cleves, who was banished to Hever Castle when the King married Anne Boleyn of Hever. His eldest son John (godson of Francis Seyliard) had the family lands in Sussex; William had lands in Hever, Chidingstone, Penshurst, and elsewhere; and Thomas the second son had Howgreen and the Hever property (a)

Thomas, married Dorothy, sister of Sir Thomas Polhill of Wrotham. Thomas Polhill, we think a grandson of Sir Thomas Polhill, married Elizabeth Ireton, granddaughter of Oliver Cromwell the Protector; and of his two sons, David was Member for Rochester and Keeper of the Records in the Tower; and Charles, Commissioner of Excise, married Martha Streatfeild of Chidingstone, John Woodgate's aunt.

It was their great-grand-daughter Rose Birsty who married John Woodgate. Besides a considerable dowry and (traditionally) a passionate devotion to music, she brought into the family the names Francis and Rose, which have since been

(a) How Green, otherwise Hook Green, was held of the Manor of Chidingstone Burghersh and belonged originally to John Hynes, afterwards to John Seyliard, then to Thomas Seyliard, and finally to Ewry Seyliard, who sold it to Thomas Birsty, who, as already mentioned, left it to his second son Thomas. At the latter's death it descended to the two sons, Francis and Thomas. Francis in 1625 sold his share to Thomas Pratt of London, of whom it was purchased by Thomas two years later. Thomas, churchwarden of Hever in 1642 and 1654, was succeeded by his son Francis, churchwarden in 1667 and 1680.

William Birsty of Chidingstone, third son of Thomas the "Serjeant," was one of the principal inhabitants. He was buried in the nave at Chidingstone, where there is a brass to his memory, inscribed:—

"Gulielmus filius Tho de Birchensty
Com. Sussex ex Anna una cohaeredum
Johannis Fremling duas relinquens filias,
Annam et Catharinam obiit XX^o, die mensis,
Maij Ao Dni MDCXXXVIj,
Aetatis LXVIIj."

Above are the Birsty arms, incorrectly differenced by a crescent instead of a star, *impaling* Fremling, namely "Gules, a chevron between three helmets argent plumed and vized or." Administration of his estate was granted 15th June, 1637 to Anna Birsty, relict, out of Shoreham Peculiars. The other Fremling co-heiress, Catherine, married Silvester Page.

Mary Birsty, Rose Birsty's aunt, married John Woodgate of Hever, and had among other issue Sarah Woodgate afterwards the wife of John Streatfeild of Penshurst, uncle of John Woodgate of Summerhill.

Two Birstys are mentioned subsequently. In 1710, at Edenbridge, Elizabeth Birsty married Edward Holmden, and in 1763, Mary Birsty of Westerham married William Tempest Beckett of the same place. Beckett was the son of James Beckett of Cranbrook, Surgeon, and Mary his wife the daughter of William Tempest of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-law.

used in nearly every generation. The Woodgates descended from her quarter, with their own paternal coat and that of Combridge, the arms of Birsty, "Gules, a fess embattled ermine between three dexter gauntlets or, and a crescent for difference." The settlement made on the marriage included Stonewall, but subject to William Woodgate's life interest. John Woodgate therefore started his married life at Chested, which had been left by his great uncle Richard Streatfeild. All the children down to Anne (May, 1711) were baptised at Penshurst; John the next child was baptised at Chidingstone 20th December, 1712, his father being described as "John Woodgate of Chested, Penshurst, Gent."; the next child Stephen was baptised in May, 1716, at Tonbridge, for in 1712 John Woodgate purchased Summerhill in Tonbridge, and soon afterwards removed there (b).

The history of Summerhill and its owners would require a chapter to itself, and may at any time be found in Hasted and other books. It is therefore only necessary briefly to recapitulate the main points prior to the Woodgate purchase. The property belonged to the family of Clare, Earls of Gloucester and Hertford, until the death of Gilbert de Clare in 1314, when it passed to his sister Elizabeth, wife of John de Burgh. His grand-daughter married Lionel, Duke of Clarence, whose daughter and heiress married Edward Mortimer, Earl of March, on whose death this estate became the property of her nephew Richard, Duke of York, who aspired to the Crown. It remained in this family till it was granted to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick and Duke of Northumberland, after whom it belonged successively to Cardinal Pole, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and then to Frances, daughter of the great Sir Francis Walsingham and widow both of Sir Philip Sidney and the Earl of Essex. She remarried the Earl of Clanrickard, who at great expense built the present house; and was so pleased with the situation that he called it Summer Hill. The house was not completed till the reign of James I. He was created Baron Somerhill and Viscount Tonbridge, titles still existent; he spent most of his life there, and was buried at Tonbridge in 1636, leaving a son Ulick, created Marquis in 1645, because of his devotion to the Royalist cause, which, however, was a sufficient reason for the sequestration of his estates by the Parliament. Parliament granted Summerhill to the Earl of Essex, in lieu of a grant of £10,000 a year which could not be paid; on his death, to John Bradshaw the regicide. On the restoration Summerhill reverted to the lawful owner, Margaret, only daughter and heiress of Ulick, Marquis of Clanrickard.

Margaret married Charles M'Carty, Viscount Muskerry, who was killed by the Dutch at Solebay in 1665. She then married a Villiers, but here Hasted and most of the writers seem to be wrong, and the facts are therefore set out in detail.

John Villiers, Viscount Purbeck, brother of the celebrated George, Duke of Buckingham, married twice. His first wife was Frances, youngest daughter of Sir Edward Coke. Weldon, who never spares "the beggarly kindred of Buckingham," says that John Villiers, husband of my lord Coke's daughter, was the best of the lot. . . . and his wife a wicked woman. He died without issue, but his wife bore a son Robert, who generally went by the name of Wright, who on his marriage with the daughter and heir of Sir John Manvers the regicide obtained a patent from Cromwell to assume that name. Dugdale says that he alleged as a reason "the many disservices done to the commonwealth by the name and family of Villiers." Wright, otherwise Manvers, was apparently destitute of all principle, and was expelled from the House of Commons in 1658, in which he sat as Member for Westbury, upon a charge of delinquency, though evidence was given of his zeal for the Parliamentary cause as soon as he was out of reach of his mother's influence, and also that he had been

(b) Hasted and the writers following (and imitating) him describe John Woodgate as of *Chepsted*, Penshurst. This has puzzled many, no such place having ever existed, but the explanation is simple. It was merely a printer's error, Hasted having used an old-fashioned S resembling a P, as reference to his manuscript shows.



SUMMERHILL, the Seat of Henry Woodgate, Esq., about 1770.

heard to say "that rather than execution should not be done on the King, he would do it himself." By the minister of Wycombe he was charged with never going to church.

As he had never been declared illegitimate, his son Robert resumed the surname of Villiers and claimed the Viscounty of Purbeck and Earldom of Buckingham, but the claim was disallowed. Robert Villiers married Margaret, Lady Muskerry, as above, in whose right he became possessed of Summerhill; but having wasted his fortune and involved himself in debt, he went abroad as his father did to avoid his creditors, and at Liege was killed in a duel by Col. Lutterell in 1686 in the twenty-ninth year of his age. He had issue by Margaret his wife one son only, John Villiers. His widow then married Robert, otherwise "Beau" Fielding and by her expensive way of living wasted her estates and sold them piecemeal to different people. She died in great distress in August, 1698.

Her son John Villiers, who assumed the Earldom and subscribed himself Buckingham, was educated at Eton and lost no time in following the worst example of his ancestors. He cohabited with Frances widow of a Mr. Heneage of Lincolnshire, a person of dissolute character but of a large jointure, for the sake of which he eventually married her to procure a subsistence, having already wasted his own fortune. He died in 1723 at Darner's Hill, near Barnet, leaving two daughters who were in every way worthy of their father and mother. His uncle Edward Villiers, born in 1661, entered the Army and was somewhat more reputable than the rest of the family; he and his son George renewed the claim to the Earldom until the extinction of the line in 1774.

John Villiers succeeded to the house and park of Summerhill, the Manor of South Frith, and certain demesne lands left unsold by his mother. The house, manor and park and certain lands he sold to Thomas Deakins, and the residue, consisting of about 1,200 acres, he sold to Abraham Hill, of whom later. Dekins died without issue and devised Summerhill to one Cave, who sold it about 1712 to John Woodgate.

Summerhill must have been in a wretched state of repair; indeed, Camden describes it about this time as "a vast pile falling fast to ruin in a delightful situation," but there is ample reason to suppose that John carefully overhauled the place and did everything that was necessary. He had thirteen children, of whom ten survived. In spite of big house and large family, he managed to make some further judicious additions to his property, notably the Manor of the Moat, Cowden, which he bought of the heirs of Thomas Gainsford about 1720.

In 1726 we come to the first of the long series of letters. It was written by John to his fifth son Francis Woodgate at Trinity College, Oxford. It seems that John had himself taken his son to be entered at Oxford, and had only lately returned.

Son Francis,

"December 24th, 1726.

Yours I Received 17 Instant, but not knowing how to rite sooner. . . I am glad to hear your Cold Is over; I carryed home A very tedious cold with mee from Oxford and have had the Apothecary's Assistance before I could get It of. Give my service to Mr. Shephard and thank him for all favours At Oxford. I went home by Reading and Mr. Zinzin was very Civil to use [us] and treated use very handsomely. Hee hath A son At Morling Colledg and says hee will see you when hee comes to Oxford. If hee Invites you over you may goe with his son when you bee At Liberty, for you have noe friends near there. It Is the Largest countrey town I have seen. I heare there hath been Abondance of snow In the West; wee had but Little, and beyond Crow borrow In Sussex none at all. I have ordered thirteen pounds for you with Cosen Henry Woodgate at the three bibles one [on] London bridg; send as soon as you pleas and will order twelve pounds more next quarter and make It fifty pounds the year. If that will not bee enough, when you over you shall have more; but you must bee as prudent as you can for there Is a great many of you to provide for. Your mother brothers and sisters Love to you, and I two, and remain, your Loving
father John Woodgate.

from Summerhill,
Tunbridg, Kent.

Wee are all well, God bee thanked, at present and all freinds, and wish you a merry Crismas. Son William Remembers his love to you and wonders you not rite to him ; hee hath sent you a Letter but hath had noe anser."

Mr. Zinzan, who seems to have been living at Reading, was probably a son of Henry Zinzan who married Jacoba, one of the three daughters and co-heiresses of Sir Peter Vanlore, in whose right he became the owner of Tonbridge Castle. The other co-heiresses married respectively Sir Robert Cook and the Earl of Stirling. One of Mr. Zinzan's sons sold the castle to the Hookers in 1739.

John Woodgate died the following year, and was buried "in woollen" the 21st August at Chidingstone, where a marble tablet on the north wall perpetuates his memory.

" Sacred to the memory
of John Woodgate, Esqre. of Summer Hill,
and Rose his wife
whose ashes are deposited
near this place. He died
August 17th, 1728, aged 68 ;
She Sept. 22 ; 1744, aged 71.
John Woodgate, Esqre.,
was the eldest son of William
Woodgate of Stonewall Park,
the High Sheriff for the County
in the year 1700,
And of Alice his wife.
The filial piety of Francis
Woodgate, M.A., late Rector
of Watlington and Vicar of
Mountfield, Sussex
directed by will this monument
to be erected as his last token
of sincere respect for his honoured parents "

The monument shows marks of the arms having been affixed ; but the shield has been torn off bodily.

By his will dated 28th March, 1727, he gives to eldest daughter Sarah Woodgate, farm and lands called Clayhill in Goudhurst, occupied by Frances Hammon, and £700 ; to second daughter, Alice Woodgate, £1,000 lent to Thomas May of Hadlow, Gent., on mortgage, also £100 one year after marriage ; to daughter Rose Woodgate, farm and land containing 50a. at Edenbridge, called Mousers, occupied by Thomas Sales, and £400 ; to daughters Elizabeth and Anne £100 apiece at 21, also the " Old Lodge " and " Heath Farm " at Lingfield, occupied by Robert Martin ; to dearly loved wife Rose Woodgate, £35 a year out of Howgreen, one quarter of the silver plate, half the pewter, and the use during life or widowhood of " the parlour, the pantry, the lodging wherein I now lie and the nursery room, with the cellar now used as a milk house, with the use of the kitchen, brewhouse and oven all being in my now capital or mansion house called Summer Hill wherein I now dwell ", and the furniture of such rooms ; also the use and possession of the garden, liberty to take water, and a way through the great hall to the said garden and all ways and passages to and from the said premises at her pleasure ; to eldest son William, all lands in Chidingstone and Penshurst, an estate in Hartfield and Cowden called Sussex House, also the farm and lands called Dryhill (c) in Sundridge and Chevening occupied by William Hawes, with the manor of Dryhill ; to son Henry, Summerhill, Cusson's farm, Summerhill

(c) This farm comprises Brooke's Place and 74a. of arable land, 8a. of meadow, 10a. of pasture, and 20a. of wood ; also a messuage called Blowters Tenement with 6a. of arable, 2a. of meadow, and 22a. of wood, a messuage called Uffmondes, and other lands.

farm, Summerhill park, the two meadows (then divided into several parcels) called the Priory Meads near Tonbridge Town, and the Manor of Summerhill and other manors, two houses in Tonbridge (occupied by Richard Ashdowne and Rose Johnson), the manor house and 36a. in Tonbridge, a field in Capell and the residue of household goods; to son Francis, Howgreen and all other lands in Hever and Brasted, occupied by John Shelly, subject to £35 annuity to his mother; to son John, the Moat farm and the Manor of Cosswyns, Gunn House and lands in Withyham, lands in Hartfield, and house and lands at Forest Rowe in East Grinstead, subject to paying £25 a year to Francis; poor of Tonbridge £10; sister Sarah Durrant £5; to all servants at time of decease, 10/- each; residue of plate to sons and daughters equally; loving brother Stephen Woodgate £5, he to be trustee. Witnessed by William Woodgate (probably the nephew). Proved at London, 1st December, 1727, by William Woodgate, the eldest son and executor.

Stonewall, the ancient family seat, thus fell to William the eldest son; Henry the second son had to be content with Summerhill. William and John, the eldest and youngest sons, took up their abode at Stonewall, and at various times acted as churchwardens and overseers. William died intestate and unmarried in 1743, and administration was granted to Henry Woodgate, brother, on 13th September. John continued to live at Stonewall; he signs the Chidingstone registers in a firm, clear, well-educated hand, and was there certainly as late as 1766 (when churchwarden) and 1769 (overseer), and died in 1770 intestate and unmarried. He was buried at Tonbridge, and administration was granted on 9th April, 1770, to his nephew William, Henry, Francis, Anne, and Rose Swayne the next-of-kin having first renounced. In this grant he is described as being late of Tonbridge deceased. On his death there was a deed of partition between Henry and Francis, by which the latter obtained (amongst other things) the Moat.

Alice Woodgate the second daughter married Arthur Children of Riverhill, Sevenoaks (d), and had issue an only son who died in infancy. Arthur Children predeceased his wife.

(d) Children is a name typically Kentish. The family were settled at Hildenborough as early as the reign of Richard II, when Simon Children appears as one of the principal inhabitants. They wrote themselves a *Childern* or a *Children*. They owned for hundreds of years an estate called Childrens in Hildenborough and were lords of the manor of Philipotts, near Leigh and Tonbridge. In later times the principal branch, that of Children of Ramhurst, built Ferox Hall, Tonbridge, and there resided. It is not at present known how the Riverhill branch was connected with this family. Their descent is believed to be as follows. Arthur Children of Tonbridge, will proved 1644, married Joan and had issue,

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| (a) Arthur. | (d) Hellen. | (f) Joan. |
| (b) James. | (e) Mildred | (g) Jane. |
| (c) Mary. | | |

Arthur of Tonbridge, eldest son, married at Tonbridge in 1655 Mary Markwicke and had issue, George of Nizels Hoath, Tonbridge, who married Elizabeth daughter of Walter Burt, he died 19th April, 1722, leaving

- | | |
|---|--|
| (a) Markwicke. | |
| (b) George died young. | |
| (c) John of Nizels; had issue Richard, George, and Mary, who married Neddal of Sevenoaks, Apothecary. | |

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| (d) George. | (h) Margaret. |
| (e) Arthur of Riverhill, m. Alice Woodgate | (i) Sarah. |
| (f) Mary. | (k) Anne. |
| (g) Elizabeth | |

The arms are "or, a saltire engrailed gules."

Elizabeth wife of Arthur Children of Riverhill was buried "in linen" 7th December, 1719, at Tonbridge; Alice Woodgate must therefore have been the second wife.

According to "Cid's" *Guide to Sevenoaks*, 1864, Riverhill was built about 1740 "on the site of an old farm house by Mr. Woodgate, who was then a Banker in Tonbridge and was occupied by his family for many years." Though we do not know the history of the place, this in any event is untrue; the Childrens were there in 1719, and owned it until 1768, when Alice Children left it by will to her brother Francis Woodgate of Mountfield, Clerk in Holy Orders (not of Tonbridge, Banker); and the Woodgates did not occupy it till 1780.

Rose Woodgate the third daughter married George Swayne of Fish Hall, Hadlow (e); she likewise died a widow, without issue.

Rose Woodgate, the widow, lived at Summerhill till her death in 1744, together with Henry and the unmarried daughters.

In 1727, the year of his death, John Woodgate was created a Commissioner of land taxes in the Act of that year, by which the tax, which had been at two shillings, was raised to four. Stephen Woodgate was another Commissioner. In 1733 when the tax was reduced to a shilling in the pound to conciliate the landed interest, Henry Woodgate, as well as Stephen, was appointed a Commissioner under the Act.

In 1740 the Act 13 George II was obtained, being an Act to revive, explain, and amend the Act 16 & 17 Charles II, viz.: an Act for making the River Medway navigable in the counties of Kent and Sussex. The promoters included Henry Woodgate of Summerhill, William Woodgate of Stonewall, the Duke of Dorset, John Wood, John Hooker, Robert Streatfeild, and forty others. The "Company of Proprietors of the Navigation of the River Medway" was formed, with a common seal, and commissioners appointed for determining the proper satisfaction to be given for damage sustained by owners or occupiers of lands. The Commissioners were seventy-one in number, including Stephen Woodgate, John Children of Ferox Hall, Lord Amherst, David Papillon, Lord John Sackville, Lord Vane, Henry Streatfeild jun., of Chidingstone, Robert Streatfeild of Cowden, Thomas Streatfeild of Sevenoaks, and others. Henry Woodgate owned some valuable shares in this company.

By this will, dated 29th November, 1768, Alice Children of Tonbridge, widow, gave to her brother John Woodgate of Stonewall £200; to her ten nephews and nieces, children of brother Francis £100 each; two maidservants, £5 each; niece Rose Woodgate, gold watch; niece Sarah Woodgate, diamond ring; £10 for twenty poor people of Tonbridge, and further £10 for other poor of Tonbridge; to godson Richard, eldest son of John Children of Nizel's Hoath, Tonbridge, a house and land at Fawk Common, Seal, occupied by the widow Cripps, subject to £100 to be paid to his sister Mary wife of Neddal of Sevenoaks and £100 to be paid to his brother John. To dear brother Henry Woodgate lands at Haysden, Tonbridge, occupied by John Relph, also house at Haysden occupied by Thomas Webb; to dear brother Francis, house, lands, and woodlands called River Hill in Sevenoaks occupied by Francis Otway, Esq., also Skin Hill, Sevenoaks, occupied by the Duke of Dorset; to dear sisters Rose Swayne and Anne Woodgate, Hale Oak, in Chidingstone and Sevenoaks, occupied by Richard Saunders, also lands at Meopham Bank, occupied by James Holmes, also farm at Hollanden, Leigh, occupied by Robert Skinner, also lands in Seal, Tonbridge, and the house in Tonbridge, occupied by herself. Residue to Rose Swayne and Anne Woodgate, executors. Witnessed by Thomas Miller and Thomas Miller, jun., and Thomas Swayne.

Thomas Miller was the doctor and (we believe) Swayne the solicitor.

- (e) George Swayne had married, firstly, Elizabeth daughter and co-heir of John France, through whom the Swaynes acquired Fish Hall. He had two sons, John bapt. 22nd August, 1732, at Hadlow, and Thomas born 1734. Thomas Swayne probably the solicitor above mentioned, had two daughters; Mary the elder married in 1795 the Rev. John Delves, Vicar of Ashburnham, and Ann who married in March, 1791, John Fellowes Claridge, of the firm of Austen and Claridge, of Sevenoaks, Solicitors. Mr. Claridge was Clerk of the Peace for the County of Kent, and held a Commission in the Sevenoaks Troop of West Kent Yeomanry, which he resigned in 1813. His daughter Ann married in 1813 Charles Ducie of Billiter Square.

The Swayne arms are "Azure, a chevron between three pheons or, within a bordure ermine"; they are displayed on the south wall of Hadlow Church. Underneath is the inscription:—

"To the memory of Thomas Swayne formerly of Fish Hall in this parish and late of Tonbridge who departed this life December, XXV, MDCCC in the LXVI year of his age. And of Anne Swayne his wife who died on the XXI day of January, MDCCCVIII, aged LXXII years.

Also to the memory of

John Fellowes Claridge of Sevenoaks in this County Who died the VII May, MDCCCXXII, aged LVIII years, and of Anne the wife of the said John Fellowes Claridge, and daughter of Thomas and Ann Swayne.

She died March III, MDCCCVI, aged XLI years."

The other France co-heiress married in 1722 Walter Barton of Court Lodge, Hadlow; the manor of Hadlow was settled on her, and descended to her son John and grandson Walter, who changed his name to May. Fish Hall is an ancient Tudor building with fine sloping roof; what remains of it is now used as a farm house. The present hall was probably erected at the end of the eighteenth century. It is so named from having belonged to the Fishers of Hadlow,

Again, under the Act of 8 Anne, for making a road to Woodsgate and Tunbridge Wells, tolls were granted for a term of fifteen years. The roads became so bad that they could not be kept in repair by ordinary measures, and the Act of 11 George I was passed appointing special Commissioners (Henry Woodgate one), and granting the tolls for a further period of twenty-one years.

After his mother's death Henry Woodgate still lived at Summerhill with his three sisters, Sarah, Ann, and Elizabeth, and it seems that they were joined by their nephew William, eldest son of the Rev. Francis Woodgate of Mountfield*. Sarah died in 1761 and Elizabeth in 1766. The latter's will, describing her as of Summerhill, and dated 5th October, 1766, states that she is "sick and weak in body"; she gives to her dear brothers and sisters Henry, Francis, John, Alice Children, Rose Swayne, and Anne Woodgate £100 each. To Ann for life her moiety in messuage and lands at Lingfield, containing 200a., occupied by Benjamin Marden, and then to her nephew William Woodgate absolutely. To sister Rose Swayne, moiety of house in Tonbridge occupied by Richard Miller, and then to sister Ann absolutely. Residue to Ann, sole executrix, who proved the will 14th May, 1767. (Witnessed by Thomas Swayne).

About two years later on William's marriage, Henry and Ann left Summerhill and occupied one of the houses belonging to Henry in Tonbridge Town. There is a tradition that the Woodgates at one time occupied old Judd House, now used as the School Sanatorium.

In 1767 Henry found himself engaged in a chancery suit, Woodgate v. Head. He had contracted to purchase of John Whittaker of Wrotham, Gent., Trustee for sale of William Head and Henry Head of Faversham, Gent., (sons of Rev. John Head of Selling, deceased, and Mary his wife) a messuage and buildings and 104a. in Tonbridge known as Romneys, Selby's Barn, and the Clays; also a house and 5a. called the Gatefield otherwise Walkfield, Hillyfield 5a.; Oldhard Field 6a., Broomfield 4a., Great Mead 6a., Strake Slift 1a. Clapper Mead 1a., two Cookes Meads 14a.; also the Flying Horse, formerly known as the Half Moon, and 47a., all in Tunbridge and Hildenborough. It had been put up to auction and withdrawn; but after the sale Woodgate offered £1,450 which was accepted, but the lands were subject to a perpetual annuity of £60 to James Head, and of £3 2 0 to the churchwardens of Tonbridge. Difficulties arose with the Trustee for sale, but apparently Woodgate got his decree for specific performance from Sir Thomas Clarke, Master of the Rolls. Mr. Swayne was Woodgate's Attorney.

On 9th April, 1772, Henry Woodgate purchased certain lands of Matthew Smith of Lee, Kent, Esq., for £1,650. The purchase consisted of a capital messuage known as Hollywish otherwise Holwich and the buildings, orchard and garden containing some 4a. and various lands containing in the aggregate some 180a. in Hartfield and Cowden (f) abutting on lands of Butcher West and South, on lands of the Duke of

(f)	The lands in detail were								A.	R.	P.		
				A.	R.	P.		Forward	..	91	1	39	
Six Acres	..	..	..	6	1	21	Woodgate's Mead	..	..	7	3	33	
Hovelfield	..	..	..	9	0	27	Lower Mead	..	..	2	2	32	
Housefield	..	..	..	5	1	12	Horse Platt Mead	..	..	3	0	14	
Watts Platt	..	..	..	0	2	4	Thorny Bank	..	..	10	2	17	
Pond Bayfield	..	..	..	9	2	1	Little piece adjoining	..	..	1	3	11	
RidgeField	..	..	..	6	0	21	Little Combfield	..	..	5	2	30	
Homefield	..	..	..	6	1	16	Further Combfield	..	..	8	3	34	
Hopyard Field	..	..	..	3	2	8	Comb Woodfield	..	..	12	1	5	
Nine Acres	..	..	..	9	3	9	Little Meadow, adjoining the						
Longlead Wish	..	..	..	6	3	19	Bridleway leading from						
Well Field	..	..	..	6	2	5	Cowden to Blackham Com-						
Acre Platt	..	..	..	1	0	10	mon	..	..	1	1	11	
Grey Clay	..	..	..	7	2	2	Greenfield	..	..	4	2	22	
Greatlead Wish	..	..	..	7	3	11	Little Clay	..	..	4	0	31	
Square Field	..	..	..	4	3	33	The Wood	..	..	24	0	25	
				91	1	39					178	3	24

* See Reference Sheet.

Dorset, Piggott and Everest respectively East, lands of the Rev. Francis Woodgate (the Moat) and the brook that divides Kent from Sussex North, and the highway from East Grinstead to Tunbridge Wells South, all occupied by Edmund Everest, formerly by Edward Gainsford. Witness, Edmund Everest and Tho. Scoones. The price seems extraordinarily low, being less than £10 an acre.

Henry Woodgate died at *Summerhill* in 1787, and was buried at Tonbridge on 8th December. The monument to his memory refers to the organ in Tonbridge Church, his last gift, near which it was erected :—

“ While within these hallowed walls
 Devotion feels an ardour
 Raised and refined by Holy Harmony,
 Let pious gratitude revere and cherish
 The memory of Henry Woodgate, Esq.,
 late of Summer-hill.
 To record his beneficent virtues
 On the marble tablet, with the Eulogium
 They deserve, would be to violate
 that manly simplicity
 which marked his unassuming manners,
 And while it taught him to do good in secret
 Rendered him superior to the praise of an epitaph
 And the ostentation of a tomb.
 He left these earthly tabernacles
 To join the choir of Heaven.
 December 1st, 1787,
 aged 87.

This is styled by the *Gentleman's Magazine* as “ An elegant monumental inscription for a gentleman who by his will gave money to erect an organ, which has been done accordingly.” This will is dated 7th December, 1782, and in it he devises to brother Francis Woodgate his moiety of the Stonewall estate in Chidingstone and Penshurst. To his sister Ann Woodgate the two houses in Tonbridge, occupied by himself and Thomas Vine; also several fields called Clapper Fields on the East side of the Clappers, Tonbridge in his own tenure, for life, and after her death to his nephew Henry Woodgate. All pictures, plate, linen, and effects to brother Francis, also £4,000. Dryhill (in Chevening and Sundridge, occupied by John Wingate) and three shares in Medway Navigation Company to nephew Henry. To nephew Stephen Woodgate five of such shares and £500. To sister Ann £200. Niece Mary Acton £100, children of deceased niece Alicia Ashburnham £20 each. Nieces Rose, Sarah, Ann, and Frances Woodgate and Elizabeth Humphry £100 each. Kinsman John Woodgate of Tonbridge, £50. Revd. Mr. Harpur, Vicar of Tonbridge, £20; Ann Duden of Tonbridge, widow, £10. Poor of Tonbridge, £10. Servants, 20/- each. £600 to be laid out in the purchase of an organ to be placed in Tonbridge Church, under the direction of nephew William Woodgate, the Vicar, George Children of Tonbridge, Esq., and Thomas Scoones of Tonbridge, Gent. All other monies, lands, houses, and manors to nephew William Woodgate, the sole executor. Witnessed by Mary Ann Scoones.

By a previous will of 29th November, 1779, but revoked, he had given his brother £8,000 instead of £4,000; Dryhill to Stephen instead of to Henry, and in lieu of the £500 legacy; the furniture to Anne for life and then to Henry absolutely; and Hollywish to Henry, instead of allowing it to pass with the residue. Also £500 for an organ instead of £600.

Ann Woodgate, the last of her generation, continued to live on at Tonbridge until her death in 1792; she was buried on 21st September at Tonbridge.

of Tombard
 4 Oct 1757
 23 Mar 1803
 178 d. 4 Jan 1780
 175 d. 20 Oct 1780
 178 d. 4 Jan 1780

178 d. 4 Jan 1780
 175 d. 20 Oct 1780
 178 d. 4 Jan 1780
 175 d. 20 Oct 1780
 178 d. 4 Jan 1780

178 d. 4 Jan 1780
 175 d. 20 Oct 1780
 178 d. 4 Jan 1780
 175 d. 20 Oct 1780
 178 d. 4 Jan 1780

See below.

178 d. 4 Jan 1780
 175 d. 20 Oct 1780
 178 d. 4 Jan 1780
 175 d. 20 Oct 1780
 178 d. 4 Jan 1780

178 d. 4 Jan 1780
 175 d. 20 Oct 1780
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178 d. 4 Jan 1780
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 178 d. 4 Jan 1780

178 d. 4 Jan 1780
 175 d. 20 Oct 1780
 178 d. 4 Jan 1780
 175 d. 20 Oct 1780
 178 d. 4 Jan 1780

gate of 5

SHEET No.

of Whatlington, S
Nov. 1790.

John Woodgate, bap. 30 Sep. 1735; bur. 11 March 1736.	Mary, bap. 2 March 1737; mar. 24 Jan. 1765; d. 1 Jan. 1785.	John A. Inner T. 23 March Woodgate of bap. 16 1 June	Henr River
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John Acton of Car Mount, near Whit- by, Yorkshire, b. 22 Sep. 1767.	Henry Acton, b. 14 Oct. 1769; d. 3 May 1771.	William Fran- ce of Tonbridge, Summerhill, b. 28 March 1770 1828.	John Hartrup Wes Postern Park, Tonbridge. XV.)
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15 Feb. 1806; b
Aug. 1818.

Anna, b. 9 Dec. 1795; bap. 3 Feb. 1796; bur. 11 April 1796.	Anna, b. 31 Jan., bap. 12 Feb. 1797; mar. 1828; d. 25 June 1829.	Henry Buttanshaw of West Peckham, Kent.	b. 21 Jan., bap. 2 mar. 10 June 182
--	---	---	--

An infant child,
d. 24 July 1829,
aged 2 months.

Vice-George Arbut
Knox
Woodgate Ar-
mar. Annie,
Sir Charles

William Francis Woodgate, b. 1826; d. 1827.	Cathe- rine, mar. 1854; d. 1896.	Rev. Augustus William Warde of Little Hor- sted, Sussex.	Ellen Susan, d. 1909.	Hamilton Woodgate, d. 13 Feb. 1857, un- mar.	A Vetta 6 Jan. Mr.	Walter ford W gate of ner Te
William Henry Warde.	Hamilton Frances. = E. Fran- cis.	Augustus Fran- cis Warde. = Henry Johu Warde.	Edward Charles Warde. = George Frede- rick Warde.	Charles = Ma	Rose. Julia Grace	

CHAPTER IV.

MOUNTFIELD, 1732-1790.

Francis Woodgate, fifth son of John Woodgate of Summerhill, was sent to school at Tonbridge, from which in 1727, he gained the Smythe exhibition, tenable for seven years at either University. He proceeded, as we have seen, to Trinity College, Oxford, where he matriculated on 31st March, 1726, and graduated B.A., 1729, M.A., on 4th February, 1734.

He took orders, and was licensed in March, 1732, to the curacy of Kemsingcum-Seal, near Sevenoaks, on an annual stipend of £30. He was there for less than a year, but in that time he met Mary Thompson (a) of Hall Place, Seal, whom he

(a) The Thompsons of Stone Street were settled at Hall Place, in Stone Street, Seal. There is a marble tablet above the south door to Thomas Thompson, nephew of Mary Woodgate, as follows:

“Near this tablet
are deposited the remains of
Thomas Thompson,
late of Hall Place, in this parish
who died January 1st, 1805, aged 61 years.
Also of Sarah, wife of the above,
who died November 20th, 1781, aged 35 years.
Also of Sarah their daughter,
who died May 25th, 1779, aged 4 years.
They left issue, two sons, Thomas and John.”

There is another tablet, near the same place:—

“In memory of
Thomas Thompson,
of Fawke, in this parish,
who died August 1st, 1832, aged 54.
Also Elizabeth,
wife of the above,
who died February 9th, 1833, aged 78.
Also Sarah
only daughter of the above,
who died December 13th, 1823,
aged 6 years.”

This Thomas Thompson sold Hall Place to Lord Camden. The arms of the family are “Azure, a lion statant guardant or.”; crest, a wivern; or (according to Burke, who is probably wrong) “a lion rampant ducally gorged or.” Motto: Nil conscire sibi.

In the pedigree of the Woodgates, drawn up by the Rev. Thomas Streatfeild, F.S.A., of Charts Edge, to accompany the coats of arms intended as a wedding present for Clare Woodgate and Francis Woodgate of Falconhurst in 1838, to which it was to form a key, Streatfeild observes “The arms born for Thompson are manifestly wrong; I have therefore passed them over.” This allusion is explained in a short manuscript pedigree of the Thompsons, in which he says “Mary m. the Revd. Francis Woodgate, on whose monument at Tonbridge the arms of Thompson of Kenfield in Petham are impaled.” (Thomas Thompson of Kenfield, son of the last Thompson of Sandwich, married Elizabeth sister of Sir John Leveson of Halling, and had issue Sir John Thompson, who died s.p., 1645. For their pedigree, see Hasted). In the Thompson pedigree however, Streatfeild gives the arms as stated above.

All doubt on the subject is dissipated by a letter of Charles Thompson, addressed to Streatfeild, in 1828, (Brit. Museum, Add. MSS. 33929, folio 135).

“Sir,—The impression of the arms on this note are those received by my father upon applying upwards of fifty years since at the Heralds Office for the arms of Thompson. The same were used by his Father and Grandfather, and he has no doubt but they are the correct arms of Thompson.

I have the honour to remain,
Sir, yours respectfully,

Rochester, Nov. 25th, 1828.

Charles Thompson.”

SHEET No. V.

The Rev. Francis Woodgate, M.A., Vicar of Mounfield and Rector of Whittington, Sussex, = Mary, dau. of Thomas 5th son of John Woodgate of Summerhill; b. 25 Dec. 1706; bur. 17 Nov. 1790. bap. 6 April 1714; mar.

John Woodgate,
bap. 30 Sep.
1755; bur. 11
March 1796.

Mary, bap. 2 March
1737; mar. 24 Jan.
1765; d. 1 Jan. 23
March 1787.

John Acton of the
Inner Temple; d.
23 March 1787.

Rose of Tonbridge,
bap. 25 Oct. 1739;
d. 1 Jan. 1827, un-
mar.

Alicia, b. 1741;
mar. 1766; d.
1777.

Sir William Ashburn-
ham of Broomham,
Sussex, Bart.

(See p. 76.)

William Woodgate of
Summerhill, bap. 5
Aug. 1743; d. 28 May,
bur. 3 June 1809.

Frances, dau. of John Hooker of Ton-
bridge Castle; mar. 30 March 1769;
d. 24 Nov., bur. 1 Dec. 1803, aged 60.

Stephen Woodgate of
Sevenoaks, bap. 16
May 1745; d. 1 June
1811, unmar.

Henry Woodgate of
Riverhill, b. 1746.

Ellen Hammo-
mar. 1780.

(See Chap. VIII.)

John Acton of Car
Mount, near Whit-
by, Yorkshire, b. 22
Sep. 1767.

Henry Acton,
b. 14 Oct. 1769;
d. 3 May 1771.

William Francis Woodgate
of Tonbridge Castle and of
Summerhill, b. 13 Feb., bap.
29 March 1770; d. 24 June
1828.

Anna, dau. of Thomas
Allnutt of Eltham; b.
30 Sep. 1774; mar. 21
Feb. 1794; d. 7 March
1810.

Frances, b. 16 Nov. 1772; bap. = Richard Allnutt of South
same day; mar. 1793. Park, Peshurst.

(See Chap. XII.)

Aane, b. 1774;
mar. 1802.

Peter Nounille of Great-
ness, Sevenoaks.

(See Chap. XIII.)

Maria, b. 1775;
d. s.p.

John Hartpur West
of Postern Park,
Tonbridge.

(See Chap. XV.)

John Woodgate of Stone-
wall, b. 24 Aug. 1778;
bap. 24 Oct. 1778; d. 13
Jan. 1842, unmar.

Georgina Martha, b. 15 Feb. 1806; bap.
19 May 1806; d. 11 Aug. 1818.

Musgrave Briscoe of Cogh
M.P.; mar. 8 Oct. 1828.

Anna, b. 9 Dec.
1795; bap. 3
Feb. 1796; bur.
11 April 1796.

Anna, b. 31 Jan., = Henry Buttanshaw
bap. 12 Feb. 1797; of West Peckham,
mar. 1828; d. 25 Kent.
June 1829.

An infant child,
d. 24 July 1829,
aged 2 months.

Frances, b. 4 May;
bap. 4 July 1798;
mar. 19 Aug. 1815;
d. 1830.

Vicissimus
Knox.
Frances.

Thomas Knox, D.D.,
Headmaster of Tonbridge
School; d. 21 June 1843,
aged 59.

Thomas
Knox.
Mary.

Holms
Knox.
Ella.

Arthur
Knox.
Julia.

William Woodgate of
Swaylands, Peshurst,
and of Lincoln's Inn
Fields, b. 28 Sep., bap.
5 Nov. 1799; d. 14
June 1866.

Harriett, dau. of Col.
James West, R.A., of
Woolwich; b. 15 Dec.
1804; mar. 16 Aug.
1825; d. 29 Dec. 1879.

Rev. Henry Arthur Woodgate,
B.D., Rector of Belbroughton
and Hon. Canon of Worcester,
b. 25 April, bap. 12 June 1801;
d. 24 April 1874.

Maria, dau. of Ed-
ward Chapman
Brudford, E.I. Co.;
mar. 31 May 1838;
d. 1890.

Maria, b. 21 Jan., bap. 2 Feb. = James Thomas, M.C.S.;
1803; mar. 10 June 1823. d. 6 Jan. 1840.

Maria = George Arbuthnot of Elderslie, d. 1896. Em

George Arbuth-
not, mar. Mary
Leslie.

James Woodgate Ar-
buthnot, mar. Annie,
dau. of Sir Charles
Jackson.

Herbert Robinson
Arbuthnot, mar.
Evelyn Noel.

Lennox Ar-
buth-
not.

William Francis
Woodgate, b. 1826;
d. 1827.

Catherine, = Rev. Augustus
mar. d. 1909.

William Warde
of Little Hor-
sted, Sussex.

Ellen Susan,
d. 13 Feb.
1857, un-
mar.

Hamilton
Woodgate,
d. 13 Feb.
1857, un-
mar.

Ashley Henry
Woodgate, Lt.
Col. Royal
Rifles; d. 13
May 1866.

Catherine,
Mary.

Sidney Wil-
liam Wood-
gate, d. 26
Feb. 1883,
s.p.

Herbert Wood-
gate of Sway-
lands Terowie
(S. Australia);
now living.

William Wood-
gate,
Brassey Wood-
gate.

Mary Louisa
Deu-
man.

Ashley Wood-
gate,
West Wood-
gate.

Percival Woodgate, d. 14
March 1874, unmar.
Edith Frances, d. 13 July
1856.

Catherine.

Ernest Wood-
gate of Roches-
ter (dead).

William Wood-
gate, Lt. King's
Own; killed S.
Africa 1900.

Edith, dau. of
John Street-
field of the
Home Office.

Violet Edith Street-
field, mar. 22 Sep.
1908, Gilbert Selwyn
Robins.

Cecil William
Francis Wood-
gate; d. 1890,
unmar.

Hamilton Streetfield
Woodgate,
Liouel Streetfield
Woodgate.

Julia = John
Marin. Yessy,
I.C.S.

Mary, mar.
Warring-
ton Luing.
Cecil Ven-
sey.

Henrietta
Newman.
Eleanor.

Rosamond.
Grace Maria.

Walter Brad-
ford bod-
gate of the In-
ner Temple.

Julia Mary.

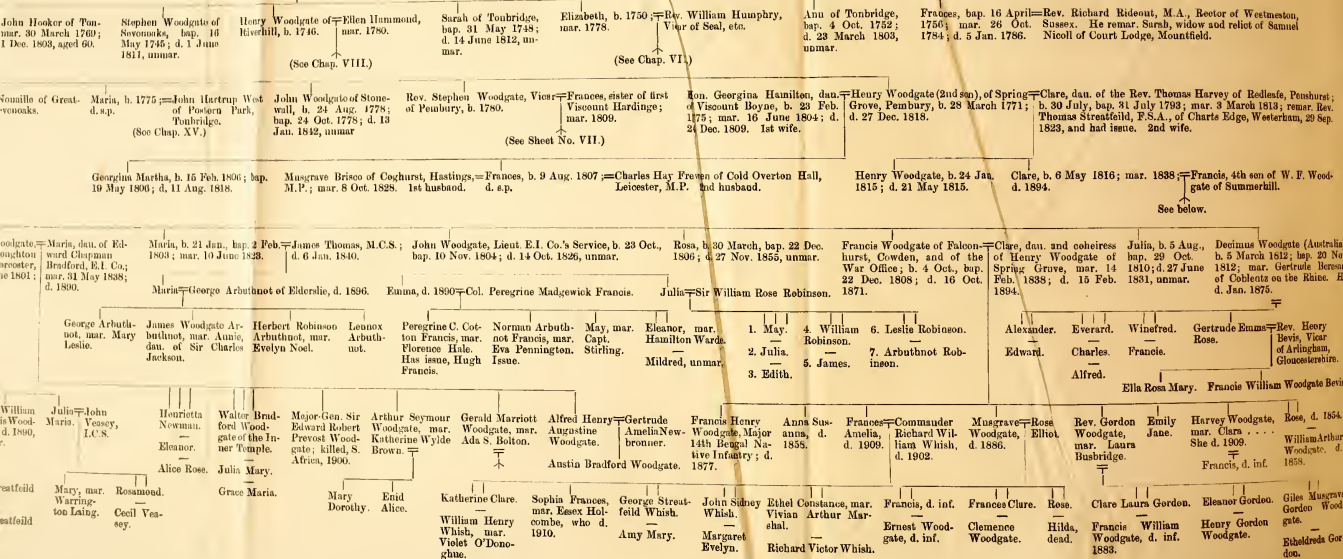
Major-Gen. Sir
Edward Robert
Prevost Wood-
gate; killed S. Brown
Africa, 1900.

Mary
Dorothy.

Woodgate of Summerhill.

SHEET No. V.

M.A., Vicar of Mountfield and Rector of Wittington, Sussex, = Mary, dau. of Thomas Thompson of Hall Place, Seal (see p. 46);
Summerhill, b. 25 Dec. 1706; bur. 17 Nov. 1799.



afterwards married. He was presented to the Vicarage of Mountfield in that year, and in 1734 to the adjoining Rectory of Whatlington, both in the patronage of the

The arms on the note were the same as those already mentioned. The crest, according to Hasted, is a Dragon.

The marriage articles of William Thompson and Mary Harbroe were dated 30th April, 1682, and made between William Thompson of the first part, Francis French of Seal, Gent., and Henry Streatfeild of Chidingstone, Gent., (trustees) of the second part, and Mary Harbroe of Tonbridge, widow, of the third part.

By her will she gave £100 to her child (unborn) and the residue to the children of the marriage equally; if no children, then (in certain proportions) to Sir Bernard Hyde, Dame Margaret his wife, Henry Streatfeild, Francis French, stepson Thomas Harbrow, nephew Anthony son of William Vincent, and William Thompson,

Mary the *third* wife of William Thompson, will dated 16th May, proved at Tonbridge 6th July, 1709, mentions the children of her brothers Ambrose, William, and John Martin; kinsmen John, Ambrose, Richard, George, Roger, and Mary Keble: sister Katherine wife of Samuel Ladbroke, late of Beckley; "son-in-law" (stepson) Thomas Thompson; Thomas Thompson of Ightham, and Mary his daughter, and cousin Mary, wife of Richard Children of Tonbridge. Affidavit on her burial sworn by Mary Childrens.

The following entries in the register cannot be fitted into the pedigree. (N.B.—The accompanying pedigree was constructed in the first instance almost entirely from the Seal Registers).

Seal. 1793. William, son of William and Ann Thompson, bapt. 19th May.

Seal. 1784. Sarah, wife of William Thompson, bu. 26th November, aged 36.

Hever. 1738. Elizabeth Thompson, of Seal, bu. 13th January.

Thompson of Seal had two children:—

1. *William*, of whom presently.
2. Thomas of Ightham, m. 3rd July, 1687, Catherine Cheeseman, of Rochester, and had issue Mary, living 1709.

William of Hall Place, Seal, buried "in linen" 3rd July, 1708.

m. 1st Margaret, and had issue

1. Mildred, bu. 30th September, 1683.
2. *Thomas*, of whom presently.

He m. secondly Mary, daughter of John Vincent and Dorothy his wife, the relict of James Harbroe of Sundridge, bu. 3rd February, 1684. Will dated 14th July, 1683, pr. at Rochester, 12th February, 1684. Had issue a child, who died young. He m. 3rd Mary Martin, sister of Ambrose Martin, bu. 24th May, 1709.

Thomas of Hall Place, bapt. 19th November, 1673, bu. 18th June, 1739, left issue by Elizabeth his wife (bu. 11th May, 1742).

1. William, bapt. 17th June, 1709.
2. Mildred, bapt. 7th February, 1711, d. 12th October, 1792, m. William Everest and had issue, it seems, Edward bu. 26th November, 1744, and John.
3. Mary, bapt. 6th April, 1714, m. REV. FRANCIS WOODGATE,
4. *Thomas*, of whom presently.
5. John, bapt. 30th October, 1721, m. 26th November, 1760, Eliz. Hills of Seal, bu. 5th March, 1762.

Thomas of Hall Place, bapt. 16th July, 1716, bu. 28th June, 1749, left issue

1. Mary, bapt. 10th November, 1740, m. 16th June, 1772, Rev. John Ward Allen, Rector of Kidby and Minor Canon of Rochester.
2. Elizabeth bapt. 24th April, 1742, (? bu. 2nd December, 1759).
3. *Thomas*, of whom presently.
4. Richard, Senior Alderman and Mayor of Rochester, d. 3rd March, 1829, aged 79-80, leaving issue Charles of Rochester, who married Miss Stevens (or Dewsbery) only daughter of a wealthy brewer. He had sixteen children, eleven of whom survived. Mary Ann the eldest m. 23rd January, 1836, Thomas Carnell of Sevenoaks.

Thomas of Hall Place, bapt. 2nd January, 1744, d. 1st January, 1805, aged 61, leaving issue by Sarah his wife (d. 20th November, 1781, aged 35)

1. Thomas of Fawke, Seal, bapt. 30th September, 1773, d. 1st August, 1832, m. at Ightham, 14th December, 1815, Elizabeth daughter of John Taylor of the Warren, Kent, bu. 17th February, 1833—then living at Borough Green, Wrotham—left issue Sarah, only child, b. 1817, d. 13th December, 1823.
2. Sarah, bapt. 14th May, 1775, d. 25th May, 1779, aged 4.
3. Rev. John Thompson, bapt. 1st November, 1780. Sidney College, Cambridge, B.A., 1802. M.A., 1806—Vicar of Meopham, Kent.

Duke of Dorset, of Knowle, Sevenoaks. On 12th September, 1734, he married Miss Thompson; the wedding was at St. Martin's Outwich, in London.

Mountfield is a pretty little Sussex village, between Robertsbridge and Battle. The parsonage at Whatlington was small and mean, that at Mountfield is of good size and beautifully situated. It is approached through a splendid avenue of chest-nuts, planted by the Nicolls, which is terminated at length by two gates, side by side. That on the right opens into a road leading, after a short distance, to Court Lodge (now Mountfield Court), the "great house"; the other leads into a road which gradually sinks, passes Court Lodge on the right, leaves the vicarage garden on the left, rounds the corner immediately under the vicarage (which here stands some twenty feet above the road) and enters some meadows beyond, among which are the Court Lodge kitchen and walled gardens, and finally joins the public road opposite the Church gate. The vicarage looks down perpendicularly on to the road.

Court Lodge is a large and handsome red-brick house picked out with stone; it belonged to John Nicoll (b), a J.P. and Deputy Lieutenant for the County, and High Sheriff in 1741. He planted the chestnut avenue.

The first of the Mountfield letters is from Francis Woodgate to his mother, at Summerhill, and is as follows:—

"Dear Mother,

As it is a great pleasure to us to hear from our Friends in Kent, so I dare say it is to you to hear from us in South Britain. We are all in good health, tho I have lately been very much troubled with a pain in my Stomach. Rose's Face begins to break out again a little, tho not likely I hope to run to such a height as it was before. Molly will talk all day long of her aunt Children's Coach coming to carrye her to her Grandmamma's. I think it is a very great misfortune that you can't see the little Maids oftener. If it was but an hour's walk, how diverting would they be to you; but as Providence has fixt us at such a dirty Distance from you, I can only now and then amuse you with a little of their innocent Prittle Prattle; for tho Rose indeed can't speak a word, yet she begins to make herself understood, and gives such broad Signs, which tho unintelligible to every body else, are very plain to those that are about her. She is the most good natured, laughing, kissing little Girl that I ever saw in my life. We have a dismal weather at Munfield, I suppose, as you have at Summer-hill; it makes short days win nothing at all. Our poor People are

(b) An account of Mountfield would be incomplete without mention of the Nicolls. The family is descended from the Nicolls of Hendon Place, Middlesex (living there temp. Henry V), who bore for their arms "Azure, on a fess between three lions heads erased argent, as many swallows proper." They were granted to William Nicoll of Ridgeway, Hendon; and his descendant, the Rev. Chas. Nicoll of St. Leonards has the original grant.

James Nicoll, grandson of William, owned Court Lodge and appears in the Heralds Visitation of Sussex in 1724. He left it by will in 1730 to his cousin the above mentioned John, who married Welthian daughter of William Jordan, and died in December, 1777, leaving issue:—

John Luke Nicoll, appointed Deputy Paymaster General of all His Majesty's Forces in Germany and the Low Countries in 1747. He married Elizabeth daughter of Sir James Gray, Bart., and was buried at Mountfield in 1767, in his father's lifetime, leaving

1. John Nicoll, of Court Lodge, J.P., for Sussex, Secretary and Registrar of Chelsea Hospital, died June, 1788.
2. Samuel Nicoll of Court Lodge, the "Nabob," J.P., Accountant-general to East India Company, died 26th April, 1787, aged 43 (monument to him in St. Albans Abbey). He m. Sarah daughter of Francis Carter Niccoll, who remarried in 1789 the Rev. Richard Rideout, of whom later.

Court Lodge descended to Samuel John Nicoll, son of Samuel, an officer in His Majesty's Army, and was eventually sold in 1859 by one of his sons to the late Mr. E. C. Egerton, whose widow, Lady Mary Egerton, occupied it till her death in 1905. It now belongs to her son, who married the Hon. Mabel Brassey. It does not appear that Samuel Nicoll ever resided there, as it was occupied successively by Lord Chancellor Thurlow, and Mr. Smee (a London Merchant); and afterwards, it would seem, by the Lambs.

ready to starve ; and the Parson [himself] has not yet collected his Tithes, tho he has been very busye lately in getting the accounts, and yesterday gave notice for a meeting on Thursday Se'nnight, I was lately a hunting ; we found plenty of Hares, within a field or two of my House ; we found a Leach, killed a brace, and had very good sport. I was in hopes my Brother would have come and taken them off, and if he will come yet, I believe the Parish of Munfield will afford him Game. You'll say that I shall tire your Patience with such a tedious epistle, but as it is my Birthday, I hope you'll excuse me if I am a little longer than ordinarye. We intend to drink all your healths in the Evening as I dare say you will ours at the same Time. Our neighbour is high Sheriff for the ensuing year, so that I may have the pleasure of taking a Trip to assizes again, but I believe I shall beg to be excused. Mr. Noaks of Brightling is lately recovered of the Small Pox. I expect my Brother Jacky, & Richd. Erridge down about Christmas. I hope my Brother Harry, if he wont bring his Hounds, will be so good as to accompanye my Brother Jacky. I wish we could come as easily at this Piece of Paper, and spend the Christmas with you. My Wife is very busye in her Family affairs, and joins in respects to yourself, Brothers, Sisters, and all Friends with

Yr. Dutifull and affectionate Son,

Fran Woodgate.

December 8th, 1740.

Molly is just come up to me, and desires that I would talk about her aunt's Coach, and when the Cuckoo has eat up all the Dirt, that's her expression, she'll come and see you."

The High Sheriff in 1741 was John Nicoll of Court Lodge, and Francis Woodgate was his chaplain. The Nicolls were firm supporters of the reigning family ; and, in one of his letters to the Duke of Newcastle, John Nicoll speaks of " the d——d old Jacobites."

The Sussex roads about this period were bad beyond description. Some idea of the state of the neighbourhood may be gathered from a letter of Horace Walpole, who made a pilgrimage through Kent and Sussex in 1752. He writes from " Battel " in August :—

" From Summerhill (see p. 37) we went to Lamberhurst to dine ; near which, that is at the distance of three miles up and down impracticable hills, in a retired vale, such as Pope describes in the last Dunciad,

' Where slumber Abbots, purple as their vines ;'

we found the ruins of Bayham Abbey, which the Barrets and Hardinge's bid us visit. . . . Here our woes increase. The roads grew bad beyond all badness, the night dark beyond all darkness, our guide frightened beyond all frightfulness. However, without being at all killed, we got up or down, I forget which, it was so dark, a famous precipice called Silver Hill, and about ten at night arrived at a wretched village called Robertsbridge. We had still six miles hither, but determined to stop, as it would be a pity to break our necks before we had seen all we intended. But alas ; there was only one bed to be had, and the rest was inhabited by smugglers, whom the people of the house called Mountebanks ; and with one of whom the lady of the house told Mr. Chute he might lie. We did not at all take to this society, but, armed with links and lanthorns, set out again upon this impracticable journey. At two o'clock in the morning we got hither to a still worse inn, and that crammed with excise officers, one of whom had just shot a smuggler. However, as we were neutral powers, we have passed with safety thro' both armies hitherto, and can give you a little farther history of our wandering thro' these mountains, where the young gentlemen are forced to drive their curricles with a pair of oxen. The only morsel of good road we have found was what even the natives

had assured us was totally impracticable ; these were eight miles to Hurst Monceaux." In another letter he states that " On our return we had an opportunity of surveying that formidable mountain Silver Hill, which we had floundered down in the dark. It commands a whole horizon of the richest blue prospect you ever saw."

This description sufficiently explains the allusions in the previous letter, and helps one to understand the difficulty of getting about the country even in August. The next letter is dated from London ; Francis Woodgate had accompanied his brother, who was to undergo an operation by Samuel Sharp, the most eminent surgeon of his day. Mrs. Everest was his sister-in-law and seems to have lived at Bromley or Plaistow.

" Dear wife,

We got safe to London a Thursday Night ; I called at Mr. Everest's and stayed about a quarter of an hour. My Brother's Fistula was cut this day, and the Surgeon, whose Name is Sharp, thinks it may be very easily cured. I shall stay here till my Brother has a Companion from Tunbridge, wch I hope will be a Monday or Tuesday at farthest. I propose to spend one night with them [the Everests] at Bromley, if it be possible. Mr. Swain [of Fish Hall, Hadlow, Francis Woodgate's brother-in-law] thinks of returning tomorrow, so that I shall be left to Nurse the Sick till Monday or Tuesday ; however, he is as hearty as can be imagined. As I came out in a Hurry, I did not think to ask you whether I should buy you any thing, but as I don't know when I shall have another opportunity, I shall endeavour to procure you a few trifles, to make you some amends for this unexpected absence. As I am and have been somewhat in a Hurry, especially of Thought, I hope you'll excuse the shortness of my letter, wch with my Love to the little Dears I shall conclude with assuring you what I believe you will easily believe that I am, with the greatest Sincerity,

Yours, F.W.

George Inn, Southwark,
Decr. 10th, 43."

Francis Woodgate sometimes bought " a few trifles " for himself, of which we have a specimen in the bill of G. Hawkins of London, bookseller.

1739.

				£	s.	d.
Octr. 17	1 Warren's Discourses, 3 Vols.	..	..	0	15	0
	1 Traps Sermon	..	..	0	1	0
	1 Stebbings Sermon	..	..	0	0	3
Apr. 24	1 Nature Display'd. 4 Vols. 8vo.	..	..	1	4	0
	1 Com. Prayr. 8vo. Turkey	..	..	0	6	0
	1 ————— 12vo. Do.	..	..	0	3	6
Decr. 24	1 Lovling's Persius	..	..	0	1	0
	1 Rapin's History, 2 Vols.	..	..	2	10	0
	1 Moll's Geography	..	..	1	1	0
				£6	1	9

At that period novels were largely unknown. In 1771 the death occurred of Francis Woodgate's old friend, John Children of Ferox Hall ; and he received a memorial ring from George Children the son, together with a brief letter. The closest ties of intimacy subsisted between the two families.

" Tonbridge, 19th May, 1771.

" Dear Sir,

I am persuaded you will receive with a melancholy satisfaction the enclosed Memorial of an old and sincere Friend. I, who well knew his heart, know that few had a warmer place in it than you and yours ; and in begging your acceptance of

this Trifle, at the same time that I gratify myself, I act on a motive, which I hope will always have the greatest weight with me, that of doing what he would have wished. I am too well convinced of the sincere return of Friendship on your part to doubt of your most hearty Sorrow for the great and sudden Loss We have sustained. Long may it be before your Worthy Family experience how very hard it is to part from a beloved and respected Parent, and may You and Mrs. Woodgate long continue to enjoy every comfort that dutiful and affectionate Children can give! My poor Mother, who is, I thank God, somewhat better, both in health and spirits than she has been, most heartily joins me in this and every good wish to you all; and I remain, dear Sir, your much afflicted but very sincere Friend and humble Servt.,

Geo. Children." (c).

By this time, the eldest son William was married and settled at Summerhill; and several of the other children were married. Amongst them was Mary, who married in 1765 John Acton of the Inner Temple, London; and Alicia, who married in 1766 Sir William Ashburnham of Broomham near Hastings. The birth of William's third child, Frances, gave occasion to a letter to his sister Elizabeth who was staying at Summerhill at the time; it is written from Mountfield by Mrs. Woodgate.

"To Miss E. Woodgate,

at Summerhill, near Tonbridge, Kent.

Thursday ye 19th Novbr., '72.

I thank you most kindly, my dear Bessy, for your last night's epistle, which made us all very happy to hear Mrs. Woodgate is in a good way, and I dare say my dear you are as much rejoiced as we are. 'Tis a delightful thing to have it in your power to send us such a pleasing account; most sincerely do I hope it will continue, and most heartily do I congratulate you all on the occasion. 'Twas kind of dear little Willie to shew his sister his best pocket handkerchief; dear little fellow, 'twas a pretty thought, it pleased me much. As to the dear little girl, I think it is to be feared she won't live long; I wou'd have Mrs. Woodgate think so, that she may'n't be surprized if any such thing should happen. Your Father is got pure well again, and Sally we thought was better, but she has some how or other got a fresh Cold, and her Cough is worse than usual, which is a bad thing for those that are so thin as she is; I hope she will soon get better. Mr. Bishop has been exceedingly ill indeed. Doctr. Watts and Mr. Young attend him; the latter set up with him a Sunday night. He is now better, as is Mrs. Bishop who has been ill, and they have now two Servants very bad, which is very unlucky, particularly as there is Children which want a great deal of hand. I had a letter from Mrs. Acton yesterday which I shou'd have recd. a Sunday; when that was wrote they were all well. Your Sister

- (c) There is one other letter addressed to the Rev. Francis Woodgate by no less a person than Hasted, the author of the history of Kent, one of the best county histories that have yet been written. His spelling of Mountfield is curious. The correct spelling is Mundefeld. The name is derived from the Saxon word *munde* (mound) and *feld* i.e., campus, signifying the general or enclosed field. *Vide* Spelman Gloss, also Sir Wm. Burrell's MSS. Hasted's methods of acquiring information are interesting, and instructive to future historians!

"Sir,

I beg the favour of your assistance towards a work I have employed myself in for some years and have now nearly compleated, which is *An Historical Survey of this County of Kent*, and I should be more particularly obliged to you for it, in regard to an Estate you possess in Cowden called the Moat, which Philpott our former writer leaves in 1656 in the possession of one Gainsford. Who have been the owners since, to yourself, and the several years of transition from one to the others is what I should be much obliged to you for. I am thoroughly sensible of the trouble I am here giving and beg your Excuse for it, and whatever Civility I may receive from you on this Account will be Ever acknowledged as a particular favor by, Sir, your much obliged and most obedient Servant,

Edward Hasted,

St. John's, near Dartford, Kent,
April 1st. 1768."

called on Mr. Nicoll since he has been in his new habitation ; he has set it off to the best advantage, and they are mightily pleased with it. I am joynd in kind respects and best wishes for a good account next post, which will give great pleasure to my dear Betsy's sincere friend and affectionate Mother,

M. Woodgate.

I am glad to hear your Aunts are well. When you see them pray give our respects, and kiss little Fanny and the dear little Boys for me. I will repay you ye first opportunity."

In 1775 Elizabeth Woodgate became the object of regard of Mr. R. H. Lambert, whom we take to be a son of Josias Lambert, an old friend of Francis Woodgate. Mr. Lambert's letter to Francis Woodgate follows :—

" My dear Sir,

'Tis now above two years ago since I took the liberty of disclosing to you the tender regard I entertained for your amiable Daughter Miss B. Woodgate. When I first had the pleasure of waiting upon your agreeable Family, I found your Daughter, not only what the world allowed her to be—confessedly beautiful—but what gave me infinitely more satisfaction, unconscious of it, good, amiable, and sensible. The most distant thought of fortune did not enter into my consideration, & whilst I indulged the pleasing hopes of rendering myself agreeable to her, I forgot that I was a younger Brother and yt. my little pittance would bear but a very small proportion to the great superiority of her merit.

Circumstanced as I then was, I ventured to declare to you my situation, but with so much embarassment yt. I rather fear I injured than advanced myself in your good opinion ; yet when then you saw the confusion that arose from the delicacy of my situation, you kindly cherished the timidity of my hopes by wishing me settled in your own neighbourhood. Will you pardon me, my dear Sir, when I tell you that I presumed upon your friendship and yt. I took every honourable method my imagination could suggest to procure a living in the County of Sussex. I was unfortunate ; and my Father's late purchase in Suffolk has deprived me of the happiness of fixing in a Neighbourhood endeared to me by a thousand pleasing circumstances, by a thousand undeserved kindnesses.

I should ill deserve the many obliging marks of friendship you have honoured me with were I to conceal from you a single sentiment of my heart. Indeed, Sir, you are fully entitled to know all my thoughts upon a subject that relates to any particular part of your family ; nor can I impolitely quit your house without assuring you that I still retain the same awakened affection for yr. Daughter, and yt. I shall be most unhappy if a change of situation must ever remain as an insuperable objection to my happiness.

My little estate is worth Two thousand five hundred ; the living £150 pr. an., and my Father has been pleased to promise me £2000 at his death. I have also great hopes of getting another small living joined to my Rectory.

You will easily see from the above that though I cannot command the genteel Luxuries of life, yet will there be, with a becoming economy, a due sufficiency for its most decent elegancies. I must confess I have no idle ambition to live above my income ; 'tis inconsistent with the independency of my spirit and very repugnant to my ideas of propriety.

Permit me, Sir, to assure you, that I have everything to hope from the sensibility and good understanding of your Daughter, and though I am very conscious that I cannot accommodate her in a manner suitable to my wishes and her merits, yet I know another very great truth, that I can give her a heart undebased by unworthy sentiments and tremblingly alive to her virtues and to her amiable qualities.

What I have wrote to day should have been mentioned yesterday. Why it was not, you who can feel will best be enabled to judge.

Need I assure you with what respect and esteem I remain yours,

R. H. Lambert.

Salchr., Thursday Mornng., Octobr. 4, '75."

(The date is added in Mr. Woodgate's own hand).

The request met with a cold water douche by way of reply :—

" Dear Sir,

I received yours of yesterday, and am sorry that you still entertain any thoughts of such a Connection as you mention'd. I was in hopes that they had taken a Turn some other way ; and whenever they do, I heartily wish that all the pleasing Ideas you form from such an attachment may answer your warmest wishes. You say it is two years ago that you first disclosed it to me. I then with freedom and Candour declared my sentiments upon it, that in general I could by no means enter into such an Engagement till it was known what part of the Kingdom it wd. be my daughter's Lot to be placed in, & that you was actually in possession & settled. I am still of the same way of thinking ; the reasons of this are so obvious that your own Reflections will easily lead you to them. But, my Dear Sir, there is another more material consideration which it will be proper without reserve to communicate ; the Inclinations are to be consulted, and I should by no means command, or unless there is some great Impropriety control them. I mentioned it to her yesterday, and was very candidly desir'd to acquaint you, that such a Connection was not agreeable, and she could not approve of it, is very much obliged to you for the favourable opinion you entertain of her, joins in compliments & wishes you many happy years, with, Dr. Sir, yr. most Faithful humble Servant,

Francis Woodgate."

There is a pretty little poem by Mr. Lambert headed " The Tears of Lady Fanny on the Downfall of the Weather Glass ; an Elegy " ; and also a Rebus addressed by him to the Miss Woodgates. There are no more letters from him, and in 1778 Elizabeth Woodgate married the Revd. William Humphry of Seal. There are, however, a few letters from Josias Lambert, who seems to have been a friend of the Woodgates in Sussex. He settled at Kendal, and kept up the intimacy by correspondence, of which two specimens survive :—

" Dear Sir,

On the 1st of this Month I did myself the pleasure of sending you a Pot of Char, & expect it will be in London on the 12th. It is directed to be forwarded from the White Hart in the Borough. The Fish are the best that Winander-mere produces & I hope you will receive them safe & good. I am never so happy as when I have an opportunity of obliging my Friends & I beg you will accept this Trifle, as a small return for the many Civilities you shew'd me during my stay in Sussex. Notwithstanding the space betwixt us, I can sometimes hear of you ; but alas, notwithstanding what you us'd to remark concerning the Lancashire Witches, the Broomsticks have lost all their Virtues, and if I was to pick & choose amongst them for a Day together, not a Feather could I find upon one. Those were happy days when my Fair Countrywomen c'd have recourse to such clever expedients, but as those Days are fled, I must be content with staying where I am, and sending you a five days Paper-Flight account of myself. You will naturally imagine that I am scarcely compleatly settled yet ; indeed I am, & much more to my satisfaction than I could Ever have expected. The People, tho' blunt, are very honest and civil, and I have no reason to complain of any want of respect in them. As I have often mentioned the nature & appearance of this Country to you, I shall wave the description & only add, that for these two months past, it has exhibited such a Scene of Horror as baffles Imagination. A Gentleman of Veracity told me the other Day that he travell'd o'er a Glen or Dingle full of

Snow, the depth of which, upon an average, might be 12 yds., & yet frozen so hard that Carts went over with safety. This collection of Snow was driven together by the Wind, but you will not be surpriz'd when I tell you that it lay in the open Fields above half a Yard deep. The Frost was equally severe; & the River Kent, which is none of the stillest, bore Skaters in the space of two Nights only. I am afraid I have trespass'd upon yr. patience too much already & therefore, to come off with the best grace I can, will be to let you know that I am, Dear Sir, your most obliged, humble Servt.,

Josias Lambert.

Kendal, 5th March, 72.

P.S.—I beg you will present my sincere Respects and Compliments to Mrs. Woodgate & the young Ladies & tell them I often drink their Healths. Mr. Foster may think me Lazy, but I will soon convince him I am not. I sh'd be glad of a Line upon yr. receipt of the Char."

"Sir,

The memory of those we Love and esteem is always to be cherished; at least no person of common feeling would willingly efface the Impression, indeed the effort would be painful and disgusting. If any thing in Life, next to a good Conscience, is desirable, it must be the approbation & respect of amiable & benevolent Characters. As such I have always drawn your Family; & the Picture, tho' finished some years, hath lost nothing either in keeping or colour. What gives me the greatest concern is that I have not more opportunities of seeing you; but if the Vision of Fancy be indulged, I pay you many a visit. No longer since than Yesterday I drank your health in the upper Regions—don't stare—(i.e.) upon a Mountain elevated about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Mile in the Atmosphere. Much did I wish for Harry; the Day was fine, & diversion favourable. Having shot 3 Brace of Moor-Game, the Least of which weighed 23oz., My pleasure would have been much increased could I have transported them to you untainted, but that would have been impossible. However there is a little Packet upon the road for you, which I hope will: it is directed to you as usual, to be forwarded from the White Hart, Southwark; as it left Lancaster on the 4th inst., it will be in town of course in ten days from the Date. During my short stay with you, I mentioned the success of our Liverpool Privateers; I say *our*, for we have a right to some pride, honest in its nature, from laudable exertions at this calamitous period, and now I have the pleasure to inform you that the famous Manila Ship was taken by the *Amazon* of the same place, called so from being in a great measure fitted out by a Party of Ladies, three of whom are my particular Friends, and of which one hath an 8th, the others a 32nd share between them. The Papers have pretended to ascertain her value; as yet nothing certain is known, but it is supposed to be immense. When I left Sussex I called several times at the Sussex to see Mr. H. Woodgate, but was never so fortunate as to meet with him. My best Respects & Comps. attend Mrs. Woodgate & the young Ladies, and I beg leave to subscribe myself your faithful Friend & hble. Servt.‡

Josias Lambert.

Kendal, Octobr. 5th, 79."

The next four letters are written by the Revd. Edm. Mapletoft from his Vicarage of Widdington, near Quendon, Essex. He makes his proposals for Miss Anne Woodgate, and as the letters are similar in character to that of Mr. R. H. Lambert's, it is unnecessary to give them at length. Curiously enough, Mapletoft, like Lambert, says that "it is full two years since he had the pleasure of meeting her with Mr. and Mrs. Humfrey at Mr. Manesty's," and she therefore may not well remember him; but there was one difference, and that is, his suit was received with more favour than Lambert's. The engagement was broken off because of Anne's continued ill-health, which would have rendered future happiness impossible; but as Mapletoft so very nearly became connected with the family, it may be interesting

to read such extracts as relate to himself. Writing to Mr. Woodgate, he says :—

“ I was presented the other day by the Society of Christ’s College to a living in Hertfordshire of £300 a year ; my private fortune is £90 a year and I am 42 years of age. I know not any person to whom I can refer you except Mr. Manesty of Salhamstead near Reading ; he is perfectly acquainted with my circumstances & connections, and will very readily answer any inquiries you may do me the honour to make.” This is dated 7th November (but no year) ; he writes on 25th November that he had been instituted the previous day to the living of Anstye in Herts. The last letter, written about fifteen months later, is dated from Anstye (*d*). Miss Woodgate also received through the post the addresses of Mr. Thomas Nelson whom she met at Sevenoaks.

The lines following may well be inserted here. “ A copy of verses made by the particular request of a young Lady on seeing Miss A. W - - d - - e.

1.

The Muses’ aid I now require,
And for good cause my Brains I tease,
To sing the praise as you desire
Of Lovely Ann in *polonese*.

2.

So graceful, smart and debonair
That very *Priests* have lost their ease,
And thro’ an opera glass they stare
At Pretty Anne in *polonese*.

3.

Oh, Tyson, you’d renounce your Doom
And let the Belles dress as they please
Did you but see, in your Ball Room,
My Charming Ann in *polonese*.

4.

If thro’ a village e’er she goes
The clowns they stare and cry ‘ Adsmease,
What’s *that there thing* ? ’ cries Tom, ‘ I’ze knows,
'Tis Madam Ann in *polonese*.’

5.

How dainty she moves in the Dance,
Old men they run and cough and weaze,
And Macaronis skip and prance
To view my Ann in *polonese*.

6.

Oh ! had I but a pen of spirit,
I’d suffer not such verse as these
To tell of the peculiar merit
Of Beauteous Ann in *polonese*.

7.

In nobler strains my theme I’d breath,
And on a Laurel wou’d I seize ;
Fame shou’d adjust it in a wreath
And crown Fair Ann in *polonese*.

8.

May there soon come a happy Swain,
Who is by nature formed to please ;
May he her favour quickly gain,
And wed her in her *polonese*.

It may appear absurd for Tom to know the name of the dress ; but he was a sharp Lad, moreover some excuse must be made for a young beginner."

Anne Woodgate appears to have been staying with the Manestys about 1777, when she received the following letter from her sister Frances :—

" *What ! no letter John ? What unparalleled airs ! Did you ever hear the like Sally ? This, I presume, my dear Ann, was your soloquy last night ; how pleasant must it be therefore to you to find I am both grateful and punctual. I am perhaps as much fallen in love with my Cap, as Pygmalion was attached to his Stake. Seriously I admire it, am particularly obliged for the Tippet because it was a Voluntary & in short for everything. Once for all, I am not for many words, but I thank you kindly, & if any whimsical Revolution should happen in my affairs, you are the first on my list to be provided for. We may perhaps trouble you in town but I don't know for what. Mrs. and Miss Hammond I believe spend this week in Town, you may perhaps see them. Mr. Nicoll is vastly well, expects the Wedding folks down this week, but I rather think not till after Easter. I am very forward in the Gardining way, have caught two or three Elegant Colds at that diversion ; I believe I have migeonnnett come up. Everything about Court Lodge is to be extremely neat, quite a pleasure to see how different the House looks. Betty's thanks to Sally for her favor. Our new maid is a bonny good natured Lassy, not comparable to Wickham in respect to beauty ; but when she has study'd Ld. Chesterfield (e) a little, I make no doubt of her acquitting herself well. Jack I imagine begins to count every hour, till the day of his perigrination. I had a long letter from Carter, she seemed to take mine as a favour, a worthy soul I do believe. My sister's congees for your Epistle. Betty & I agree to rise every morn at 5 to drink Sage Tea, being reckoned good for the memory. Pay my particular compliments to Mrs. Manesty ; Betsy will pay you for her sixpenny chicks some day with Interest. I heard from Mr. Ashburnham lately, they seem all quite well. Compliments to self and Co. Ever yrs,*

Fanny Woodgate.

How shd. you like a dimity Jacket for Betsy ?"

The reference to Pygmalion seems to indicate a knowledge of the classics. The Miss Woodgates were devoted to gardening. Mrs. Humphry's daughters, in later years, were the greatest enthusiasts.

In 1778 Elizabeth Woodgate married Mr. Humphry, and the next letter from Mountfield is addressed to her on the question of servants. Servant difficulties were not unknown even in the " good old days," and amongst the family letters there are several which relate to the engaging of cooks and others, of which the following may serve as a specimen :—

(e) " Chesterfield " appears to have been a nickname for the Rev. William Gordon, the Curate of Mountfield*

We have been favoured by Mr. Wilson, the present Vicar of Mountfield, with a list of Curates who served under Francis Woodgate at Mountfield. There was, of course, another Curate in Charge at Whatlington.

Hugh Hodgson, B. A., 1760-1762.

John Bishop, 1760.

Robert Wilson, 1762-8 (went to Battle).

Viscount Preston, 1768.

Robert Foster, 1768-1772.

William Gordon, 1772-6. (Went to Bexhill).

A. Corrance, 1776.

Montague Davis, 1777-9.

Richard Rideont, 1782-3.

Richard Constable, 1784-5 (afterwards Rector of Cowford, Sussex).

Henry Bishop, 1785-91.

In 1760 Hodson entered into the cure of the parish until 1762, when the Rev. Francis Woodgate re-entered. The Rev. William Hussey was afterwards Rector of Sandhurst ; his sister Frances was mother of the Rev. Thomas Streatfeild.

*See Reference Sheet.

“ Mountfield, ye 5th Jany., '79.

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

We are very happy to hear you all continue well ; pray how did you escape in the late high Wind ? 'Twas very alarming here & I see it has done a great deal of damage in Town. In this neighbourhood it has blown up many Trees, unthatched Barns, &c., &c., which must be some time before they can be repaired. According to your desire I have Bargained with your Cook. She is to have four Guineas a year & half a Guinea for Tea, & you are to bear her expences up in the Carrier's Waggon the Tuesday after Lady day. 'Tis good Wages for so young a person, but she has been out in Service eight years at Ladytide. I hope she will do very well, & her coming seems to be approved of by all parties. Fanny's has been a long Month ; her Sisters talk of coming home next Week, who will be great Strangers. They are exceedingly gay at Sen. Oaks with their Balls, &c., the poor old Married Lady hasn't been at one, shou'd suppose it was because She hadn't returned her *formal* visits ; dare say you'll be glad when they are over. Your Father continues well, but he had a long confinement with that nasty disorder (I will call it so) and you, my dear, are the only person I ever saw with it before ; imagine you haven't forgot it. I heard from Mrs. Acton last post when they were all well, they had heard of the Death of their Brother William [Acton] who went off very suddenly at the last ; he hasn't left any family, which is a satisfaction, & a very good kind of Man. Mr. Griffiths dined with us a Saturday & stayed with us till Monday, as hearty as ever I saw him ; he gave the Sacrement here a Sunday, & is really better than he has been for years. He told us Mr. Gorden was taken Prisoner coming from Russia (as he intended spending the Winter with his friends in England) by a French Privateer & carried into Dunkirk. Poor Man, he seems not to regard it much, but wishes to see Paris ; he wrote a very chearfull letter to Ld. North on the occasion. Mr. Nicoll hasn't been so well for a few days past as usual, he has call'd often on your Father during his confinement. Our *little* Party are all well and joyn in kind respects to Mr. Humphry, your Self, Brothers & Sisters, wishing you all health and many happy Years, be assured, my dear, I am at all times your Affectionate Mother,

M. Woodgate.

I am got in a dark corner which you may easily see."

This letter is sealed with a large squirrel, the crest, and her previous letter was sealed with the coat of arms, on which the "chevron" is depicted "sable," instead of "azure" as it should be.

The next letter congratulates Mrs. Humphry on the pleasing account received of her little son William, who was only eleven days old ; and mentions the Actons' visit.

“ Mountfield, Octbr. ye 26, '79.

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

. . . . Mr., Mrs. A. & C. left us yesterday morning, all well ; I never saw them look better. I do suppose Mr. A. just gave a call this Morn, at Sen. Oaks, & underwent Fan's examinations ; the particulars you may possibly have heard before you receive this. Mr. Hussey is vastly delighted with Aunt Fanny's *likelinesses*, wishes to see her of all things to chat about it. Sally & Nanny have had colds for several days, but Ann's is much worse to-day than it has been. She can't keep off the Bed, & is really very poorly. I hope she will be better to-morrow ; they are pretty general, I think, at this time. Sally intends going to Tunbridge very soon but can't tell the day, not till her cold is better. Ann's breath is always so bad with a cold that she makes me uneasy. Mr. Wm. Bishop and his Lady dined with us last Thursday, & a Friday we dined with them at Court Lodge, with Mr. Spurgen & a Mr. Pritchard—a very pretty sort of a young Man, is now

Curate at Battle. After Tea the Old Gentleman order'd Weston to strike up, a very agreeable surprize to the young party; they danced away four Couple several dances & were well pleased. Saturday Mr. Nicoll & Mr. & Mrs. John Bishop dined with us. All these good people made kind enquiries after you all and drank your healths every day & were very glad to hear the good news. Your Father is as well as usual, he joyns with us in kind love & respects to Mr. Humphry, yourself & the young Man. I am, my dear Mrs. Humphry,

Your sincere friend and affectionate Mother,
M. Woodgate.

Sally has just been looking over my letter, & says you will think Ann is worse than she is, but I hope you won't be at all surprized as you have seen her just so many & many a time. Our love to all at 7: Oakes, tell them they are good dear girls for writing so often. Bless you all. It is just dark."

This letter is succeeded by one two months later :—

" Mountfield, ye 6th Decbr., '79.

I am much obliged to my dear Mrs. Humphry for her kind letter, & was happy to hear you cou'd give so good an account of your self & nursery. I pityed you very much when I heard the dear child had been ill, as I well knew those were distressing times (tho 'tis common with young children). Henry just gave us a call yesterday on his way to Battle. We have had so much Rain, wind, and floods that I was afraid he wou'dn't be able to get over. We were down at Mr. Edgar's today; he says his house has been for this week or more like a publick Inn, both Gentlemen and Ladies have stayed there for a night or two. Upon my word I think they ought to make him good amends. Poor Miss Durrant has been very dangerously ill for these two months, or more. We stopped there to day when Mrs. Durrant told us she had just got her up, but she wasn't able to go out of her room; her complaint Doctr. Watts says is Convulsions, sometimes in such pain you may hear her a great way. Pray how do you escape Colds your way? They are almost universal with us, of the same kind and generally very bad. Mr. Woodgate & I have hitherto been very fortunate in that respect. We were alarmed for poor Sally, tho we didn't hear of it till she was well as they told us; we expect her home soon. I shall be glad to see her safe at Mountfield, tho her stay won't be long with us. I fancy Nanny will go to morrow or next day, & they talked of sleeping with us a night we shall hear to morrow how 'tis to be.

Mr. Jenkin put me by finishing my letter; he came in after Tea, as spruce as a Bachelour, to let us know there was an assembly going on at Rothersbridge for the benefit of Mr. Richard's children, ('tis supposed he has made off with the most he had got in the Mountebank (f) way) & so ask Ann to come to their Ball. What with Balls, Assemblies, Players, Officers, &c., sure Rothersbridge must be a gay place, but alas the main thing is wanting. Poor Guy's affairs are left very indifferently; they blame his widow very much. His affairs are in a scrambling condition; his Mother gave all she had to the Children, as she saw their Mother wou'd soon make off with it. Do you know that Mrs. Hollyway has got another son? Mr. Nicoll has had a bad cold, he hasn't been here for some time. Mr. John is in Town. I shall run on with my nonsense till you will be tired out before you get to the end, so I shall conclude with our kind respects to Mr. Humphry & your Self, wishing your both your healths; particular love to the sweet Boy who I beg you wou'd treat and kiss him twice for me as soon as you have read this, & then, my dear Mrs Humphry, you will greatly please

Your sincere friend & affectionate Mother,
M. Woodgate."

(f) See page 48 when "Mountebank" is used for "Smuggler."

Two weeks later she writes again, with further particulars of the floods and Henry's approaching marriage.

" Mountfield, ye 20th Decbr., '79.

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

I thank you for your kind letter, the contents of which gave us infinite pleasure to hear you were all so well. I take the first opportunity of letting you know that your Father most readily complies with your request, in answering for the dear child, (indeed my dear 'twas rather remiss in me not to mention it as 'twas what I fully intended when I set down to write). He desires you would dispose of Three guineas as you think proper, which he will repay by the return of Henry, who I suppose is detained in Town longer than he expected, on account of this Tryal, which may last several days. I hope this tempestuous Weather will be over before he comes this way ; I don't remember such continued floods, 'tis very disagreeable indeed, particularly when you expect any body. Your Aunt & Sally got through very safe tho the water came in the Carriage as it went up & twas a foot higher when they returned ; they kept their feet up & didn't get any Cold, both perfectly well after their journey. I never saw either of them look better, & as *blythe* as can be, I do think they are glad they are this side of the Water. I am glad to hear you have bargained with Phillis ; I hope you will with Molly when the time comes ; as you seem to like one another, 'twill be a good thing on both sides. Pray did you ever hear of *our* Mr. Dalrymple having another wife ? Report says that he married a Scotch Woman some years ago by whom he had seven Children, but as they cou'dn't agree they parted by consent & he kept remitting her money yearly till of late, since he has been unsettled in his mind, when the remittance ceased. She and the Children came to England which has made great confusion I hear ; how shocking if true. Mrs. Harecourt was brought to Salehurst yesterday morning to be buried by her husband, in a very private manner. She sent for Mrs. Boys during her illness and they parted great friends. She left her fifty pound ; the Captain had two hundred & fifty or £300 a year came to him by her death which she cou'dn't hinder him of. I had a letter from my Sister Everest lately, in which she desired her particular love to you & all the good wishes that can be, is very glad to hear you have got a little Boy. Poor woman, she is as bad as ever. . . . Ann desires you would thank her sister for her letter & tell her she will write soon. I shall be very glad to see both the young Women safe at Mountfield. Mrs. & Miss Hammond was with us for two or three nights the week before last, when Mrs. H. intended then to go to Town with her Daughter for a few days ; I don't know but what it may be the best thing she can do, as parting with an only Child, & to be left quite alone just as they are married isn't quite agreeable. You know it would make some people put on their *bonnets*. One of your Sisters will go with them and return with the Old Lady. I can't conclude without giving you caution you don't get any cold at the Christening. Yesterday was our Tithe meeting & to day you know we have a great many people to wait upon, & just at dinner time we had some gentlemen came in to dine with us, that we have been quite full of *Company*. It keeps on raining & the flood is so high I can't tell how they get through the Water. Anne, your Father & Sisters are just set down to a Rubbar while I finish my letter ; they joyn in kind respects & best wishes with my dear Mrs. Humphry's

affectionate Mother,

M. Woodgate.

I woudn't mention the affair of Mr. D. as there was a Gentleman here this day who heard it contradicted at Lewes, tho it has certainly been publickly talked of. I hope 'tisin't true. Love to your Brother & Sisters when you see them, particularly to the dear Boy ; tell him I wish to kiss him. I have been called off so many times I hardly know what I have wrote."

The correspondence is carried on, in the next year, by Frances Woodgate, who thus addresses her sister :—

“ My dear Mrs. Humphry,

My Mother sends thanks for your last ; we are sorry to hear your *little man's* court enamel is so defaced, but *there are specks in the sun you know* ; I hope he will soon recover his *complexion*, and give us the pleasure of his *good company*. We shall be extremely happy to see you at any time ; I shall quite *grieve* if *my little sister doesn't come* and eat some of our *peas and strawberrys*. We are very much concerned for Mrs. H. W's mishap but sincerely hope she continues in a good way. We wished much for a letter last night ; how very lucky Mrs. Hammond's not being come out of Town. I am *quite ashamed to send this scrall*, I meant that last line as an apology to Mr. H. for the writing. We expect Mr. Ashburnham to go to Hastings this week, but he won't stay here, as the little girl may have been in danger of the Small Pox. Bourne will be quite a gay place ; Lady Godfrey Webster and daughter have taken Lodgings there. The East Devon are now at Rothersbridge, Battle, &c., are to be encamped at Rye with the Cheshire & 6th Regiments. Mr. Pritchard buried Charlotte Grove (g) here on Saturday ; he and Mr. Constable are very good neighbours to us, both agreeable young men enough, *but I have seen more so*. The latter seems going on *in a style*. I hear he is to marry Miss Evett soon, he is certainly a genteel lively man, is gone with Mr. Goring to see the Grand Select this week. The Deans' Lady and Sister seem much approved off ; I hear they are *pretty young women, good Horsewomen, & fond of dancing*. We don't mean to *honor them with a visit*. Pritchard has taken Mr. Bishop's morning duty. I must tell you the *Household establishment of Tom Fuller* (of Watling) ; *three Maids, a footman, & gardner*, the house fitted up very elegantly, three *Horses, a Whisky &c., &c.*, & Mrs. F. as fine as if she had brought him £30,000. What a little *humble Peeress* the Countess of Balcamp will be, am glad *Bess* is got out of her *Mama's way*. The Riots in Town are shocking surely. We dined at Court Lodge on Friday, the old man quite chearful ; he had two Devonshire *Cousins* with him, one a handsome young *grazier* with his hair combed *so smooth that it shone again*. Banquo has been down & a dreadful fracas ensued. The old man swore he *wd. kick him out of the house*, Banquo retorted that it was *his own house*, came here with his grievances, quite *foaming at the mouth*. He said the demand from the King was near £14,000 ; he shewed us Papers from the Exchequer ; they all seem rejoiced that his Majesty should have the money in preference to any of *their own Friends*. I am Joined by all in best wishes, Love, Compts., &c. Ever yours, my dear Betsy,

Fanny.

I think Mr. H. quite in the right to be at the Cricketing. Our Boys are quite well ; Geo: desires I wd. say that he drinks yours & yr. *little boy's healths* every day, the child really has for a great while. Poor Mrs. Alderton was buried last week. Old Mrs. Simes died last Friday, Jenny has just been here ; she & her spouse well. I have sent her home *sighing* at these *wicked Riots*. The Johnsons all well. Pray give Master Billy a kiss for me.”

The Riots of course were the Gordon Riots of 1780, when the mob held London for a week, sacked many of the best houses in the Town, notably Lord Mansfield's, and were at length put down by the imprisonment of Lord George Gordon in the Tower. “ Banquo ” must have been one of the Nicolls ; and Geo: was George Ashburnham, who with his brother made long visits at Mountfield, which, indeed, was one of their homes.

The next letter is addressed in 1781 to Anne at John Acton's, Swithin's Lane, London.

(g) Charlotte Grove was buried at Mountfield on 8th June, 1780, which fixes the date of the letter.

" My good friend,

I direct for you in Town as I imagine it will find you out ; suppose you will receive this at Clapham, where I hope it will find our Friends all well. Mrs. Hammond, we heard from our *Fair Ladies*, went to Town yesterday. Rose desires you would thank Mrs. A. for her Sunday's Favor, we are very sorry she can give no better account of her Invalids. I still think if they were here they would soon get better. My partiality may be great I allow ; every gale that blows is *odouriferous, spelt wrong*, I presume it is the same with you. I am as brown as a *mullotto grubbing* about, but gardening begins to be too much for my *aged Limbs*. Our Neighbours bell rings so hard for dinner that it *worries* my Senses. Sam & his spouse are now there ; her Mother returned on Friday & took poor Banquo with her, as *Bag Cheeks* wont condescend to meet him. We think Mrs. Nicoll very agreeable but I must own *high* enough for a *Peeress* ; she took particular care to say she *kept two maids to attend on her*. Sam is quite affronted that you did not return with them that day, (the Miss W——s may say what they please, but it was a *firm* engagement, I never was so explicit in making one before, *says Sam*). She desires her Love and intends calling on you this week. They go to morrow ; fancy she sees things with different eyes than when she was *Miss Sally*, the old man's senses *repaired* & spirits quite gone, her former companions not at home, & herself *Married*. We don't much admire *her Mama* ; don't you think her *palavering* manner & *howsevers* (exactly like Mrs. Willard, & her *mouth* so much the counterpart of my old Cousin Weatherall) that I think her a *some what disgusting miss* ; she talks so much of her own Friends that I am sure they have *interred* the Family *Trumpeter*. One whole mornings conversation amounted to this, that the blood of the *Serankes* (her Friends) had flowed in a *clear pure Channell* (at Hatfield) *with their Beet* for 300 years. You are a very great favorite of Mrs. N——'s, she will tell you what encomiums your *Battle Beau* passed on you at Court Lodge. Fancy they will not come down any more this year. I do think the departure of *Miss Hammond* & yr. *Ladyships* have cast a gloom over our *Neighbourhood*, not one joyous meeting at Battle this winter, the Balls given up for ever. Miss Bishop *hangs her lip* to see *dear Miss Nancy*, *Pritchard sighs & grows fat*, your poor little Salehurst Swain I hear is *worn to a thread*, & *Will's* eyes have never *sparkled* since our *return*. I believe it may be happy for me *that they have not*, as I am sure my *pride* will now keep me from ever falling a *Martyr* to their *Brilliancy*. He is going into Suffolk for three weeks. Pritchard & Constable are to officiate. Mr. Bishop's girl and boy are arrived, shd. think poor Jack's head must be bad, shut up with those *obstreperous* brats. Molly Sellers is now down ; her parents have contrived *successive Junkettings* for her, am afraid they, poor souls, will be laid up by *endeavouring to entertain her*. . . . I am joined by all in duty, Love, Compts., &c., to every body ; write soon, Ann, & I am ever thine

(France).

Our best Compts. to Mrs. Hammond ; the boys desire dutiful remembrances, & George desires his love to all Aunt Nanny's *little* boys & all her *little* girls, adieu.

Tuesday afternoon : hope to hear that Miss A. & Johnny are better, sure they might come here. What a *valorous knight errant* for a *Pigmy* is Sir J. E. ; he must have a *Dulcinea*. Jack Fermor desired his particular *love to us by will* on Saturday. R. & I *expect a proffer*."

The next letter is to Mrs. Humphry, and from its contents must have been written about 1784.

" Mountfield, Tuesday Afternoon.

Nine acres of grass down and nine more to cut ! This is Mr. Hussey's account of your *Spouse's present amusements* ; why my dear Friends, we shall not have the pleasure of seeing you till Christmas, I verily think. However, I sincerely wish your *Hony* good weather, & that it may soon be *all happily over*. My Mother has

got a most troublesome cough ; she was blood'd this morn, & Mr. Durrant thinks he shall with the Assistance of Spermacitis draughts soon remove it ; she has not been quite free from one for some months, but I hope he will be as good as his word. My two *neices* are sitting by me, & by their *Loquacity* draw off my *Ideas* which would otherwise be *very sublime* ; I have imposed silence on Alicia which she *resents much*, & set Ann to work. After so much precaution you will expect something brilliant, *be not deceived*. And so you would not honor his Grace's Festival ? I feel myself some what mortified at your nonattendance, being convinced that you would have learned *some of Vestri's* capers from the Nobility, by which I might *have been benefited* ; but seriously, I think it was odd your not going. We heard from Ann by Sunday ; am rejoiced Mrs. H. W. and her young Francis are so remarkably well. We were at Mr. W. Bishop's last week. Miss Thorns spends the summer at Sedlescomb. I verily think she will leave Ann at least a legacy. Mr. Pritchard was sent for express to Hampstead, his Lady being there & extremely ill. Our Garden is a wilderness of sweets, I never saw it *handsomer*. Our *Esqr.* is altogether *Invisible*, spends all his time at *Darvel*, (*h*) in his Boat. I walk'd with him very soberly from Church on Sunday, altho' it rain'd hard. I look upon him as my *Dernier Resort*, though I shall not be *too pointed in my addresses* till I see if Government leaves any thing Tollerable. Does Doctr. Cornwallis take the Bishoprick ? I saw Mr. Horne (of Aulburn) just by Maidstone lately who assured me that his Friends did not wish him to it as he is to resign the Dean'ry & Wrotham. I wish'd Mr. Horne to *fancy* me as he is a most agreeable widower, with a good *House & good fortune* ; does Mr. Humphry know him ? I should have written to you before, but hoped to have had a *personal Interview* e're this. I hope Willy has the same *Family partiality* that he Inherited last year. Mr. Howlett has sent my Father a Book ; it is his last publication (an answer to Doctr. Price). Missy sings & *whistles* & . . . notwithstanding my Prohibition to the contrary. I wish you could see her. I hear the Military at Rye behave extremely Ann seems to grieve at the melancholy Idea of Mrs. Hammans leaving England ; their *Farewell* I suppose was very *affecting*. I am joined by all in Love and best Respects to yourself & Mr. Humphry (whom I meant to have mention'd first) not forgetting Mr. Curteis's young Curate, ever thine with the most *sisterly Fidelity*,

F. Woodgate.

How provoking it is that *Willy is not old enough to assist Mr. C* at this critical juncture. Mr. Nicoll is just come to Tea, something *new*, as he never *drank any*. I am sure of him now."

Mr. C. was probably Mr. Curteis of Sevenoaks, and the "Esqr." Mr. Nicoll of Court Lodge. Reference is made to Mrs. Woodgate's continued ill-health, and it is probable that the letter was written not long before her death, which occurred on the 12th Jan., 1785, in the seventy-second year of her age. The circumstances are mentioned in a letter, fortunately preserved, from her son Henry to Mr. Humphry.

"Riverhill, Thursday Evening.

My dear Friend,

It is with the deepest affliction I inform you that my Dear Mother is no more ; at the fatal Hour of Two yesterday in the afternoon we were deprived of our ever honoured & much beloved Parent. She was quite sensible to the last & died perfectly composed. My Father endeavours to support himself as well as He can, calls forth all his Fortitude & Philosophy, & is really better than you cd. expect ; my Sisters also are as well as you can suppose and exert themselves in composing my Father & alleviating their general distress. I did not get Home till near Seven this Evening or shod. have sent to night—shall now order Thomas to carry this early in the Morning & to give it Jack before Mrs. Humphry is stirring. I am grieved to

(h) In a valley in Darvell Wood, about three miles from Court Lodge, there used to be a furnace where iron ore was smelted. There was a large pond there, now drained. (Note supplied by the Revd. C. W. G. Wilson, Vicar of Mountfield),

hear she is not well & am persuaded you'll use every precaution in disclosing this melancholy event. I should be very glad if you cd. call here in the Morning but I don't know that it is fair to ask you to come. My spirits are too much broken to be a comforter at present, but nevertheless I will come over to you to morrow if you can't make it convenient to call here. Excuse haste as I want very much to get to rest. Believe me, yr. sincere tho' much afflicted

H.W.

Our kind love to Mrs. H. yourself & little Folks."

The same year Frances Woodgate was married to the Rev. Richard Rideout, and the correspondence is taken up in 1787 by Alicia Ashburnham, then about ten years old. She was one of the "two neices" and lived at Mountfield with her grandfather and aunts. The letter is in a good, though childish hand, between ruled pencil lines, and is addressed to William Ashburnham junr., Esqr., Edward Street, Portman Square.

"My dear Brother,

I thank you for the favor of your kind letter which it gave me great pleasure to receive. I have the satisfaction to inform you that my Aunt Anne is rather better than when I wrote last, tho she has been but very poorly all the Winter. We expect my Uncle and Aunt Humphry next week. Willy is to be of the party, whom I have not seen for two years. My Uncle Harry intended to have made us a visit this week but was prevented coming. The weather has been so mild this winter that the Garden looks quite gay with snowdrops and all sorts of Spring flowers. My Aunt Anne has saved all her Geraniums and they grow and look beautiful. Mrs. Murrey and Mrs. Ferris have each of them another little girl, and poor Mrs. Bishop a little Boy, but it did not live. Mr. and Mrs. Nicoll have been above a month at Court Lodge, but Sam they have left in Hertfordshire; she often takes us out for a drive. I have been several times to Battle. Lady Webster has been very dangerously ill but is now much better; it was reported that Sir Godfrey had taken General Murrey's House at Ore. My Aunt Sally intends being in Town this Month to be present at Miss Acton's wedding, which is to take place some time in the spring. My Aunts and I are in the Lottery; I depended on having part of the twenty thousand, but am sorry to find they are both drawn. My grandpapa and my Aunts desire their kind Respects to my Papa, with my Duty and Love to yourself and Brothers,

from your affectionate Sister,

Mountfield, March 3rd.

Alicia Ashburnham."

Ann Woodgate has added a postscript in her own hand, containing a charade "made by the celebrated Miss Streatfield"; she expresses her opinion that it is exceedingly good, but it is too long for insertion here. She writes the same year to her sister, staying at Seal.

"Friday, August 3rd, 1787.

My dear Sally,

Your letter on Sunday gave us *great pleasure*, for which my Sister is much obliged; she will with pleasure answer for little Fanny, is much delighted to hear that her God Daughter is such a promising *maiden*, desires you would leave Mrs. Humphry Two Guineas to be disposed of as she thinks proper, and also twelve shillings as her *prize* in the Lottery; and pray tell her also that I shall be at her *service*, not for the next for that will be a *Boy*, but for her little Daughter Anne I certainly shall be responsible. I have been but *indifferently* well this last week; have tried Mrs. Walter's receipt and really think it alleviates as it makes me expectorate when my breath is poorly. I am sure Willy would laugh to see me trudge round the Garden with my Pipe; my Father tells me I shall soon be a proficient in smoking. Pray don't forget to thank Mrs. Walter for her attention. The Hardys are coming to Court Lodge, but not quite so large a party as last year, as the three youngest Children are left in Town; Mrs. Nicoll I fancy has dropped her scheme for the present.

Mr. Hodson called on us on Monday ; he is settling Mrs. Atterbury's farm for the Miss Hays. He told us that Mr. Ashburnham, William and John were at Westmeston ; we heard from Mr. Rideout lately when he told us he should be with us on Tuesday, and I think it not unlikely but that Mr. A. &c. may come with him. We dined at Mr. Russel's (by invitation) last week, Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, &c. there, but they were disappointed of *four Beaus*. Poor Jack Durrant died on Tuesday, he has been in a deplorable way for some time. Do you ever remember such a July ? Mr. Humphry was lucky in his Hay ; such heavy rains I hardly ever saw but the *element* seems clear at present. Alicia is sadly afraid you will not come home while your charming bed of migionett is in its prosperity. I hear there is a great deal of Company at the Wells—the Dutchess of Rutland, Beaufort, and Ancaster, Duke of Leeds, Lord North, &c. ; the Walks were Illuminated for the Princess of Lamballe ; she is to be at the Races, which are expected to be very full. Mr. H. Bishop was much disappointed that he did not see you at my Aunt's, we were very glad to hear by him that Mrs. Woodgate was so much better.

Adieu, my good friend,
from your ever affectionate
Anne Woodgate.

I am joined in kind Love and Respects to Mr. and Mrs. Humphry, yourself and all our little *kindred*. Alicia longs to nurse Fanny and to salute Betsy. George I know has kisses enough for you. I desire you would give Willy a *shilling* to make a *playment* on my *Birthday*. Pray remember us to our friends at Riverhill, and Brother S. Fanny Bishop has got a little Poney and intends being an *expert* Horse woman. Fanny Russel is a sprightly little girl, like her Mother, & the Boy they think a good deal like the late Dean. *Backy* seems to manage her children & Household with great propriety ; she made kind enquiries after you and Mr. H."

This is almost the last of the Mountfield letters ; for three years later Mr. Woodgate's health began to break up. He had attained a ripe old age, and took duty almost to the last. In 1788 he signs the register in a firm, clear hand, which shows the amount of vigour he retained. The last wedding at which he officiated was in 1786, though he took duty till much later. He died in 1790, and was buried at Tonbridge. The monument, on the north wall of the chancel, bore this inscription :—

" Beneath the rails of the altar, in the silent chambers of the dead, sleep the remains of Francis Woodgate M.A. with those of the loved partner of his happiness and his wishes, Mary Woodgate. During half a century he conscientiously discharged the pastoral office as Rector of Watlington and Vicar of Mountfield in the County of Sussex. Pious, humble, charitable, he early aspired to and obtained and uniformly preserved the truly honourable character of an exemplary parish priest. In domestic and private life the purity of his principles and the benignity of his nature led him to fulfil every duty ; ever strict to himself, but to others amiable, indulgent.

Not less laudable in her sphere, his faithful associate exhibited a model of conjugal and maternal virtue. Blest and blessing in the calm tranquillity of a long and honoured life, they closed their eyes in the Christian faith and hope, universally regretted ; he on the 10th November, 1790, at the age of 84, his wife having departed the 12th January, 1785, aged 71."

By will dated 4th June, 1789 the Rev. Francis Woodgate, gave to his three unmarried daughters Rose, Sarah, and Ann Woodgate, all his household goods, linen, plate, live and dead stock of all sorts at Mountfield and all books of which his son William had duplicates ; also his four-wheeled carriage and pair of grey horses ; also the house in Tonbridge Town occupied by the Miss Jordans ; the Moat Farm and Manor of Cosins, in Cowden, Kent, and Hartfield, Sussex, occupied by George Kidder ; and £1,000 each in cash. Sister Ann Woodgate 5 guineas. Daughter

Elizabeth Humphry, 50a. of land called Mowers in Edenbridge, occupied by Holmden ; Skeen Hill, Sevenoaks, occupied by the Duke of Dorset, and £500. Son Henry, house and lands called Isele Dale in Sevenoaks, Leigh and Chidingstone, occupied by Richard Saunders ; and Howgreen, in Heaver and Brasted, occupied by John Humphry, subject to £300 to grandchildren William, John, Denny, George, and Alicia Ashburnham at 21. Granddaughter Alicia Ashburnham, £500. Robert Sellous of Mountfield, labourer, £10. To each of the servants, 2 guineas. Son Stephen, Chested and Seedrups in Chid: and Penshurst, occupied by Page ; house and garden in Penshurst (divided in two and let to labouring men) ; cottage in Chid: occupied by Hollomby ; farm called Gildredge in Chid: occupied by Richard Delves ; farm called Frinden in Chid: and two pieces of land there called Sibords Meads ; " the plain of lands " and woodlands purchased by him of . . . Thorpe Esq. in Chid:, also the farm called Tophill in Chid: occupied by the widow of John Streatfeild Gent. subject to £1,000 to grandson John Acton, and to erecting a monument in Chid: church to his (testator's) uncle Stephen Woodgate, Gent. Executor to erect monument to Francis' father and mother in the parish church of Chid: Kinsman Robert Durrant Esq., trustee. Son William to have remainder of books, and all other real and personal estate, and to be sole executor. Witnesses : Mary Bishop, James J. Bishop, Richard Hides.

Proved at London 3 Dec., 1790.

On 13th Nov. Mrs. Humphry writes :—

" My dear Sisters,

I cannot sufficiently condole with you on the late loss we have sustained in the best of Fathers, but it must be entirely on our own account as we have every reason to be satisfied that he is a great gainer by the exchange. Bro. S. informed Mr. Humphry this morning of the particulars of his will, & I think he has shewn the greatest kindness to us all in this last act of his life. I am sure we shall be sensible of his goodness as long as we live. I am rejoiced for you all, and I am sure you feel the same grateful sentiments that I do. I am very glad that Brother S. has reason to be so well satisfied.

. . . If a change of scene would be agreeable to any of you, I am sure we should be rejoiced if you would come to us. I hope my Dr. Anne has not particularly suffered in yr. late scene of distress. Mr. Humphry unites with me in kindest love and most sincere condolence to you all. I remain, my dear Sisters, your most affectionate and sincere in affliction

Saturday, November ye 13th.

Elizabeth Humphry."

CHAPTER V.

ACTON.

Mary Woodgate the eldest daughter of the Revd. Francis Woodgate, b. 1637, married John Acton of the Inner Temple, London. We are fortunate in having the whole series of letters which led up to this event. They were indorsed by Mr. Woodgate and marked "A's 1st Lr." "A's 2 Lr." and so on. The first is dated 1764, and is as follows :—

" Revd. Sir,

You will possibly be surprized, yet, I flatter myself, not offended at the liberty of this address from an entire stranger, the subject of it being of some moment to you, and of very near concern to your daughter and myself. I should not have presumed however to give this trouble without first receiving permission from Miss Woodgate, whose many amiable Qualities, attracting my attention in a casual interview at my friend Mr. Davenport's, & being afterwards confirmed to me by Mrs. Davenport's account of that valuable Lady, determined me in an endeavour to gain some Interest in her Heart. The Success, by means of the favourable Representation which those friends made of me to Miss Woodgate, & an opportunity which they have been kind enough to give me in a late visit of a few days to Tunbridge of sounding her Inclinations, has far exceeded my most sanguine hopes ; happy, too happy, shou'd they be crowned with the approbation of her Father, which I now beg leave to request. You will naturally ask what are my pretensions. They are by no means so large as I could wish, and much inferior to the Lady's deserts, tho' in a very improveable state : such as they are, my Education, profession, present state of Income, and the reasons upon which I ground my expectation of advancement, permit me now to lay before you ; in doing which assure yourself, Sir, I shall observe the strictest truth and candour.

I am by Profession an Attorney. The early part of my Instruction I received from my Uncle Mr. Chesworth, a Gentleman of known Character in his profession here ; the remainder upon his decease with Mr. Cocks, his Partner, with whom I continued for three years and upwards after the expiration of my Clerkship, and had the whole Conduct of his Business, which was very considerable. Last Year, much against Mr. Cocks's inclinations, I left him, on a more advantageous prospect opening to my view, but upon the strongest Terms of Friendship and assurances from him of promoting my Interest. My principal Employ is that of Deputy Clerk of the Errors in the Court of King's Bench, under Mr. Way, an office of very great Trust, and from which accrues to me a Moiety, with him, of a very profitable business, exclusive of my own separate concerns, amounting in the whole to more than a clear £200 per annum, to say nothing of very reasonable prospects, I might almost say a certainty, of much Improving my situation in a very short space of time. My Character, I doubt not, stands universally fair and unimpeached ; my Behaviour has been such as to procure me the Esteem of all my Friends, and will, I hope, stand the Test of any Enquiry you may Honour me by asking ; my Industry in business must in some measure appear to you from the Account above stated, considering I am not yet six and twenty years of age. In a word, upon the above circumstances, I lay my most material stress, my private Fortune, of which I come next to speak, being comparatively inconsiderable. It consists of a Freehold Estate in Cheshire, my native Soil, which however being Intailed on my Issue, and not capable therefore at present of coming into Settlement, is not worth mentioning : there is also a Leasehold Estate,

but of small Value, and both together not much exceeding £40 per annum. Besides these, I am also Intitled to some contingent Interests under my Father's will, and otherwise, but these being dependant on Deaths cannot be brought into the present account. My Personal Fortune is not a great deal more than is sufficient to carry on my Business which in our way requires Money being continually laid out. For the truth of what I have above asserted, I shall beg leave to refer you to Mr. Cocks and Mr. Way, whose addresses are, Joseph Cocks, Esqr., at Castledich, near Ledbury, Herefordshire (where he is during the Vacation but his House here is in Lincolns Inn Fields) and John Way Esq., Ormond Street or Lincolns Inn, London; I mention these two Gentlemen in particular as being best acquainted with me and my affairs; and Persons of Character Probity and Fortune.

All I shall now add, Sir, is, that if my present Circumstances and the General account I have given of myself (which are rather Diminished than exaggerated) meet with your approbation, and make me appear in any degree worthy of the Blessing I demand, you may securely rely on my constant Endeavour, if I know myself at all, to merit the Esteem and Friendship of your Family, and to make the young Lady as happy as possible. In this case I shall hope to be allowed the Liberty of waiting on you at Mountfield, to talk more at large upon this Subject. The favour of a Line in Answer will be an additional Honour conferred on, Sir, Your most devoted & obt. hble. Servt.,

Jno. Acton,

Inner Temple, Sepbr. 15th, 1764.

P.S.—Upon looking over this, I shou'd be inclined to think an apology necessary for its length, if that would not still add to it."

To this account we can only add that John Acton, of Lincolns Inn Fields, was sworn and enrolled an Attorney of the King's Bench on 29th June, 1762. The reply was favourable to Mr. Acton's interest, and evoked the second letter a week later.

" Revd. Sir,

I reced. the favour of yours, and am much obliged to you for the good opinion you seem at present to Entertain of me, which I flatter myself you will have no reason to retract. I am so far from thinking your proposed Enquiries in any degree unreasonable, that on the contrary I entirely approve of them, and commend your prudent Circumspection in so doing, as I would by no means wish or be thought to Impose on you in an affair of so much importance to all parties.

Your observation, Sir, with respect to making a Settlement, is very right, as the Intail of my estate cannot at present be Barred. I thought I had expressed myself fully enough in my last to be understood, that I am in possession of it myself, & have been so from my Uncle's death, under whose will I am Intitled to it If you please to enquire of Mr. Cholmondeley, one of the Members for Cheshire, who has always honour'd my Father and me with his Friendship and acquaintance, and who is now at Vale Royal in Cheshire, I flatter myself he will give ample satisfaction on this Head. Mr. Davenport, who knows as much of me as any body, will, I dare say, give you a candid and impartial account of me, if you please to apply to him.

As I have been very explicit in my own affairs, if I shall be so happy in other respects to meet with your approbation, I hope you'll excuse my enquiring in return what the Lady's Fortune will be, and what will be expected from me in consequence of it; my motive for which is, that I may consider in what manner I can do the most justice to her, and to the satisfaction of yourself and Family.

I am, Sir, your most obt. hble. Servt.,

John Acton,

Inner Temple, Sept. 22nd, 1764."

He supplies further particulars of his estate, which had a considerable quantity of timber on it. His Father, who survived his Uncle, lived on his own property in Cheshire and left the bulk of it to his younger children (three sons and a daughter, all minors) to the exclusion of John Acton, whom he considered to be partly provided for by his Uncle. The enquiries confirmed all that he had said in his own favour, and his application was granted, as we learn from his grateful acknowledgment :—
“ Revd. Sir,

I yesterday reced. the favour of yours, and shall ever retain the most grateful sense of the honour you have conferred on me. I shall with great pleasure wait upon you on Friday next (my avocation & Engagements here not permitting me to do it sooner) & as I cannot now possibly be absent longer than Monday, shall beg leave to stay with you till Sunday Morning, and then take Tunbridge in my return to London.

Please to make my due respects to all your Family, and as I hope soon to have the pleasure of settling this Affair with you in Person, it is unnecessary now to add more than that I am with the greatest truth,

Your most obt. hble. Servt.,

Jno. Acton.

Inner Temple, 9th Octr., 1764.”

“ Revd. Sir,

I return you my most sincere thanks for the favours I received from you at Mountfield ; it was with great regret I was obliged to leave you so soon but the necessity was unavoidable. I got well to Tunbridge that Night & the next day arrived well here after a pleasant ride. I acquainted your sisters with my success, and do assure you if anything cou'd possibly add to my happiness it is meeting also with their approbation, which they were so good to give me. I have the greatest reason to be satisfied with the choice I have been so fortunate to make, and I every Hour make discoveries which give me the strongest assurances of great Happiness ; my Gratitude is infinite, and I hope I shall be able to give you reason to return my friends your thanks as well as mine for their recommendations. I did not particularly acquaint Miss Woodgate either with her own Fortune or what I had agreed to add to it, thinking it would come more proper from you. At present I have my hands too full of other matters to look out for a situation for me, but have employed an able emissary or two. I intend it to be small and convenient, as we can easily remedy any inconvenience in that respect when occasion requires, but as you will easily conceive, an affair of this nature, and to be transacted at so great a distance, will unavoidably interfere with my other business. I hope I shall not be thought too precipitate if I press for a completion of my happiness towards Christmas ; I firmly rely on Miss Woodgate's own good sense and discretion not to Impute any want of affection to her on account of my little absences, which as a publick officer and otherwise will not be in my power to prevent in a very short time, and this I hope will be an argument for granting my request.

I expect Mr. Cholmondeley in a few days here, when I shall get some Covers (a) and send you what I promised for your Perusal. I propose, if no unforeseen accident happens to prevent me, being at Tunbridge on Saturday Se'night, where I shall be glad to receive any commands from you, as I shall scarce be able to reach Mountfield, being obliged to return on Monday following. Please to give my due respects to Mrs. Woodgate and all your Family ; hoping to be favoured with soon hearing from you, I remain with the greatest Esteem, Sir, your most faithfull hble. Servt.,

Jno. Acton,

Inner Temple, 18th Octr., 1764.

P.S.—Mrs. Davenport is come to Town to-day, they particularly desired their Compliments on my telling them I was going to write to you.”

(a) The “covers,” of course, were much sought after in the days before penny postage was introduced. The transmission of letters was exceedingly expensive ; but Members of Parliament were entitled to “frank” letters by signing the cover or outside (envelopes not having been invented at that time).

The next letter was enclosed with the draft marriage articles, by which the settled funds were to be limited to Mr and Mrs. Acton for their lives and afterwards to their children equally at twenty-one. He proceeds :—

“ I returned from Tunbridge on Monday morning last as I mentioned to you, but when I shall be able to go there again I can't say, having now both my hands full. It would give me great satisfaction if Miss Woodgate was a little nearer me during the Term, but being afraid that is impracticable must submit, tho' Mrs. Davenport was so obliging to invite her to come & be with her some time, & I verily believe would be extremely glad of her Company. It gives me singular pleasure to reflect that two such amiable friends with Hearts and Minds so united will soon be so near together. I have not yet been able to hear of a House that will suit me ; its amazing the vast increase of Rent & demand for Houses at this part of the Town as there's not now one to be let any where hereabouts, but I hope to get one by & by, till when must wait with patience. As soon as the Sittings are over I shall with great pleasure wait upon you at Mountfield, which will be next Month. I consider myself under great obligations to Miss Woodgate for so kindly excusing me from attending on her so often as the sincerity of my professions make me wish for, as well as on all other accounts ; in due time I hope to make her amends for all. I had the pleasure of hearing from her to-day. In my last Excursion to Tunbridge I was much pleased with Mr. William Woodgate, who I look upon to be a very sensible deserving young Gentleman, & who will in time be an ornament to his Family, shall esteem myself happy in his acquaintance & good wishes. We have no news stirring here, except some flying Reports about changes in the Law & in some other Departments, I believe all equally void of foundation.

I was in great expectation of being favoured with hearing from you before this time, but hope I now shall as soon as convenient. Please to give my best respects to Mrs. Woodgate & all your Family, & I am with the greatest Esteem, Sir,

Your most faithfull hble. Servt.,

Jno. Acton.

Inner Temple, Novr. 3rd, 1764.”

The next letter which has survived, the ninth (three intermediate letters having been lost) contains fuller particulars of the house which was fixed upon :—

“ Dr. Sir,

I return you my most sincere thanks for the favours recd. from you during my stay at Mountfield, shall ever esteem myself happy in testifying the deep sense I have of them. We got to Tunbridge on Thursday by 12 o'clock ; from thence I set out before one, & arrived here very well about half-past five, without being accosted by any collector [highwayman] & in very good time.

This morning Mr. Davenport & I have agreed for the House in Shire Lane, before in view, with which I hope Miss Woodgate will be perfectly satisfied. He seems to like it pritty well, tho' I think some parts of it rather dark, otherwise the first & second Floor are not amiss ; if the Conveniencys below Stairs were rather better I should be glad. I've taken it on a 21 years Lease at £30 per ann., paying £150 Consideration—For this I'm to have it compleatly ready to go into to my satisfaction ; it is now all ready but Papering & some few things which were let alone for the Tenant to chuse & suit himself in. Upon the whole, I believe the Bargain will not be very disadvantageous, as the man has been offered several times £46 per ann. but wanting money immediately I got it cheaper on that account. It is to be PAPERED &c. to my Patern & liking, & ready to go into in the course of next month if I please, which may very well be done provided it is thought to be then aired enough. This being now reduced to a certainty by the signing of the agreement, permit me to renew my application for an early Day ; you are I'm sure very sensible of the Great Inconvenience as well as Expence attending these Journeys in time of Business, besides the near approach of Parliament sitting & the Term, when I shall

be much engaged. I propose taking a Ride to Tunbridge on Friday next, before which beg the favour of a Line from you, as I hope then to fix the time & settle every thing previous to coming to Mountfield.

Upon talking to Miss Woodgate she seems to disapprove of any articles being made ; to which I can only add I am ready and willing to Execute them if you please, but if not you may securely rely on my word that whenever it please God to have occasion to carry them into Execution, I shall consider myself equally bound & immediately settle it to her satisfaction & yours.

I had a very kind invitation on Thursday, at Bromley, by your Friends at Plaistow, shall do myself the pleasure of going there the first opportunity.

For the above Reasons among various others, I shall hope the week after next will compleat my Happiness ; we shall then very soon have the House ready, which I shall choose she should oversee. Our Friends in Norfolk Street desire to be Remembered & with all due respects to your Family, Believe me to be, Dr. Sir,

Your most faithfull hble. Servt.,

Jno. Acton.

Inner Temple, 29th Decr., 1764."

Shire Lane had the very great advantage of being near the numerous Courts scattered about the neighbourhood of Chancery Lane. It is now demolished and the Royal Courts of Justice occupy the site. It connected Carey Street with the Strand and Lincolns Inn with the Temple. In one of the houses the famous Kit Kat Club met, and Addison and Steele produced many of the Spectators and Tatlers. Latterly it depreciated in reputation, but many men of eminence have lived there, including at that time Hook. Rents in the eighteenth century were lower than in these days.

In less than a month the couple were married at Mountfield, by licence, the 24th Jan., 1765 ; the registers were signed by Wm. Woodgate and Jenny de Passow.

Three years elapsed between the last letter and the next one that remains, which is marked the twenty-second. Mrs. Acton's brother, Henry Woodgate, was reading Law with a view to becoming a barrister, and lived for the time being with the Actons ; her brother Stephen, too, subsequently passed some of his time with them whilst acting in town. The letter is as follows :—

" Dear Sir,

We were made very happy yesterday, to hear by my friend Harry of the health of our friends at Mountfield. I returned from my Cheshire Expedition yesterday morning before ten, the badness of the Roads preventing my reaching further than St. Albans the night before ; I never saw anything equal to them, being by the continual wet weather cut to pieces. I was happy to find Mrs. Acton pretty well, as I was very anxious on her account, & her then state made me leave her with much regret ; but as I could not have gone this year unless at that time, & being advised there was no danger, with due care, made me venture—thank God she's now so much mended as to be able to walk a little with assistance, & hopes to have no more pull backs. My dear little Boy continues quite hearty & thrives daily. Give me leave here to return you my sincere thanks for your kind offer in answering for my name sake, which we accept with the greatest gratitude ; the Ceremony is proposed to be on Friday, when nothing could more contribute to our mutual happiness than the honour of your personal answer, & with Mrs. Woodgate making part of the Joyfull Company—indeed, we have long hoped for the favour of a visit here ; & still keep in memory your kind promise of it.

I found my Cheshire friends all well, but they were obliged to accept Doctors' Visits, as business was the object of my Journey ; I had however the satisfaction of completing all our affairs as far as they could be, & preserving amity between all parties, which most abundantly paid me for my trouble. I brought up my little Sister with me, as my Dear Mrs. Acton was so good to desire to give her instruction ; poor

thing, she sensibly feels the loss of a good Mother now, tho' then of small concern to her, being very young. I hope she will in goodness endeavour to repay in some measure the infinite obligations she'll be under to her, & be studious to follow the pattern sett before her. My Gratitude for so good an Act to a poor helpless Orphan is unbounded.

At Chester I called on Mr. Mainwaring, saw them all well, & particularly desired their best respects to yourself & Family, importuned me much to stay Dinner, but my time would'n't permit—they propose seeing Sussex next year. At Litchfield enquired after the C——l Family, find a Sale of his Effects was Cryed there last Thursday; the young Man is now there, but who he married no person could learn further than that she used frequently to travel between London & Liverpool in the Machine, always dressed well &c. but whether one farthing Fortune or £10,000 remains a secret—it seems he owes much money there & very little dividend expected.

I hear no News at present, the Ministry being likely to remain at least till the meeting of parliament—the dispute of the Physicians is at present mostly the Topic of discourse but its now almost threadbare. I beg my best respects to Mrs. Woodgate & all the Family, & am, Dr. Sir, yours most affectionately,

Jno. Acton.
Shire Lane, Octr. 27th, 1767."

In March, 1768, it seems that Stephen, previous to setting up business on his own account, was engaged with a firm of solicitors in London, which appears more clearly in the next letter, the twenty-third. Acton's remarks on the affair of Wilkes are of considerable value; they come from a keen observer of contemporary events, and a thoroughly able lawyer.

"Dear Sir,

I was favoured with one of yours sometime since, which I begged Mrs. Acton to acknowledge the receipt of, it not being then in my power to answer it. I doubt not you thought the time long before Stephen was fixed, which gave me some concern, being convinced his wishes run before hand with my success, but things do not always turn out as we would. At last, however, I hope at least, he's agreeably settled for the present, till something better turns out, tho' I could wish his salary would more nearly ballance his Expences; so much I can testify for the Gents he's with, that they are all men of great probity & honour in their profession, & have great business among the first Rank. Something has been mentioned with Respect to his boarding with us; one objection (& the greatest) is answered by my Wife's acquiescence & the light he stands in to us; & tho' its not my intention to take any person under the predicament of a Boarder, yet as its my earnest wish by every act in my power to testify my regard to every one of your Family, I shall only say that so long as my House & Hours are agreeable to him, I shall be very happy in his Company, & to render him every service in the compass of my abilities. He seems at present solely disposed to sobriety & diligence in his business, which I doubt not will continue; my friend Harry in these is a very good Pattern.

Mrs. Acton being gone to the Wardrobe, I am now her emanuensis in the following, that she was there yesterday; Mrs. Ashburnham (*b*) was out airing & pretty well, which rejoices all here as the air will certainly be of service to her. We are all very well and our dear little Boy grows charmingly; they tell me I'm a very good nurse, but with your permission I hope soon to take Mrs. Woodgate's sentiments upon it, as I think her a great Judge; we have many a battle for him here, particularly after Dinner when Harry posts himself at the Door to take him at his entrance. He's very strong & I hope his Humour abates, but has no Signs of a Tooth yet.

(*b*) Mrs. Ashburnham, Mrs. Acton's sister, and formerly Alicia Woodgate, was the wife of Mr. William Ashburnham, M.P. for Hastings and Deputy Keeper of the Great Wardrobe. He afterwards succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his father.

Our heads have been all turned with Wilkes and Liberty here lately, but yesterday exceeded all I ever saw. The papers you'd doubtless see have the whole of it however; he has carried his Election for the County *hollow* as they say. He was strongly supported in the County by men of property & had as good Managers as the old Members had the reverse—the mob of many many thousands, men women & children for him greatly opposed the Voters going for the other two, stoned them, broke the Coaches &c. with other *glorious marks of Liberty*, to wch they were not a little irritated by their very imprudently carrying colours before them with “No Blasphemers,” “No French Runnagates” on them; however these were soon demolish'd, & then by putting the immortal No. 45 on the coaches &c they all passed on & last Night the poll closed. I know many turned back not choosing to risk a broken head, but at the place all was quiet & in good order & a very fair Election. This day the Sheriff declared the Numbers to be thus—Wilkes 1,292, Cooke 827, & Proctor 807, so he fairly beat them & the two first were duly returned. Sir William I hear on the declaration went & shook him by the hand & wished him Joy. He behaved extreamly well during both his Polls & yesterday did all in his power to keep peace & order as agreed on all hands. Last Night all London & Westminster was Illuminated from one End to the other & those Houses that refused had their Windows broke; the Mansion House has suffered above £700 damage, all the Windows, Glass Sconces, Chandaliers, Chimney pieces &c. broke to pieces because they would not put out lights & in revenge for some supposed affronts of the Lord Mayor to their Idol Wilkes. He was not at home, but some are in Custody to-day. Many houses were threatened till they put out Lights. I'm glad Cooke is in, as his place is very materialy *convenient* to him. Lord Baltimore's Trial on Saturday lasted from half past 7 in the Morning till near 4 the next Morn'g., when he & the women were acquitted of the Capital Felony. The prosecutrix gave a most affecting clear circumstantial account of the whole, never faltered, nor put one occurrence before another or left any uncleared. . . . What I believe tended most to his acquittal was her denying that she ever said before Lord Mansfield that she was satisfied & desired to return with my Lord B. in wch she was flatly contradicted by Mr. Way, & in another part by Lord M's own Servant, two indifferent witnesses—these you see greatly discredited her whole Evidence, notwithstanding which the Baron seemed with her & 4 of the Jury were for convicting him. Another Indictment is found for the Conspiracy &c. in wch his pocket will *suffer* & not his neck; this we shall have.

I am desired to present all due respects from hence to yourself & Family, & believe me to be with the utmost sincerity, Dr. Sir, yours most affectionately,

Jno. Acton.

Shire Lane, 29th March, 1768.”

The next letter, the twenty-fourth, though written nearly three months later (9th June, 1768) resumes the subject of Wilkes. In it he discusses with much learning and in minute detail the various reasons why the Outlawry was reversed; but the interest is of too special a character for the generality of readers, and some of the reasons, which were overruled, were, in his own words, “too nice for any man but a most refined casuist in the Law to enter into.” He adds:—

“I am very sorry to hear Mr. Cooke is dead, as its a great loss to his Family. Mr. Manley is one of his Executors & fully employed. It's believed Mr. Serjt. Glyn will be chosen on Wilkes's Interest [*i.e.*, to take Mr. Cooke's place in Parliament], which I don't think unlikely in the present popular clamour.

I am happy to acquaint you that our dear little Boy continues quite well, but of this Mrs. Acton writes herself. I shall only say that I'm afraid you'll soon have a parcel of troublesome guests, tho' with your leave I intend soon to make one

amongst them, offering at the same time ample Revenge in Shire Lane on demand. The Young Lawyers & I must do in the interim as well as we can.

I beg all respects &c., & am, Dr. Sir, your most sincere and affectionate

Jno. Acton.

Shire Lane, 9th June, 1768.

Yesterday another North Briton No. 51 was published by Bindley containing the speech he intended to have made in Court by way of shewing Cause agst his Attachment, ten times more audacious & Impudent than the other, on which the Attorney moved to-day for another Attachment."

The twenty-fifth letter, three years later, is more melancholy in tone ; it contains news of the death of Harry Acton, not two years old ; and is endorsed by Mr. Woodgate, " death of dear, dear little Harry."

" Dear Sir,

I am most unhappy to be forced to confirm the fatal news you were prepared to expect. It pleased the Almighty to take our ever dear sweet blessed Harry (c) to himself, soon after twelve yesterday, to the inexpressible affliction of his poor Parents. God's Will must be done, & we submit ; but it is very hard so suddenly to lose such a dear little Prattler ; indeed we were not prepared for such a sudden dreadfull Blow. Poor dear, he is an Angel, & happy beyond our Conception. I can't descend to particulars, being far from well myself, & his ever dear Afflicted Mother unable to write. Miss Woodgate is at the Wardrobe, so you must hear more from her. The dear Baby suffered a great deal from the Convulsions but went off gradually at last. Four days ago in the bloom of Health & Beauty & now no more. Great God ! what a change ! We had Dr. Ford, Dr. Eliot, Mr. Davenport & Mr. Crawley, but all human aid, & all our prayers, were in vain. My Wife with great grief & sitting up, was very ill yesterday, but as we prevailed on her to go to Bed soon after the fatal stroke, hope she is better in health to-day. God alone knows what was the Cause, as we are ignorant, except Dr. Ford's surmising it something of an Epidemical disorder, now about among Children, but this is doubtful. Miss Fanny is very well, but very unfortunate to be here at such an Event. She joins with my Wife in Duty, Love and good wishes to all the Family as due, & I am, Dr. Sir, your most unhappy

but sincere

Jno. Acton.

Shire Lane, Saturday, 4th May, 1771."

Three years later he received highly advantageous proposals from Mr. Wyatt, an Old Tonbridge boy and a leading London Solicitor.

" Dear Sir,

The Relationship I have the happiness to bear to you demands the earliest information of every material change in my Circumstances & Connections. Mrs. Acton has given you a hint, she tells me ; that we might soon become Citizens, which seems now reduced to a certainty. My friends are unanimous in their opinion, that the proposal made to me was too advantageous to be rejected. Mr. Wyatt, upon the death of his Partner, made me an offer of half his Business, provided I could give up my present attendance, & come to his House in Swithins Lane, Lombard

(c) " Mrs. Acton married Jany. ye 24th, 1765.

John Acton born Sept. 22nd, 1767.

H. Acton born Oct. 14th, 1769.

died May 3rd, 1771.

My dear Mrs. Acton died Janry. 1st, 1785.

Mr. Acton died March 22nd, 1787.

Mrs. Cleaton married April 26th, 1787.

Mary Cleaton born Janry. 24th, 1790."

The above is from a list of births, marriages, and deaths kept by one of the Mountfield Woodgates.

Street. After due consideration I have accepted it, & to-morrow morning I shall wait on my Lord. Mr. Wyatt has been in business above five & thirty years, & now resides in Bloomsbury Square. Perhaps you may know him as he went to Tunbridge School, is a Sussex Gent., has a Seat 12 miles on this side Lewes, & a very considerable Landed Estate. I have done agency business some years for them, which induced Mr. Wyatt spontaneously to make me the offer, & to refuse many large offers of partnership. He has very large concerns, & some of the first business in the City, all of which is instantly to be turned into my Name, but he to attend every Morning, & when he dies the whole to be mine. I am obliged to give up the Sittings, as being incompatible with the business I shall be fully engaged in, but shall keep my Commissionership & some of the best Error agency, which is to be my own. The House is very old & bad, but being Mr. Wyatt's own, & the *old shop*, I shall take it, at least at present, & get a House at Camberwell or some where near for my Family. I shall have my hands full, but the great consideration is, that I hope the sooner to get out of the Smoke. Mrs. Acton went to-day to visit the House, & we afterwards dined at Bloomsbury, but I do not wish her to be much in Town. Business is more a Freehold than places, besides the change is far beyond what I could expect in that way. I have been thus particular, because you ought to be acquainted with the whole. I hope & doubt not making above a thousand a year—but I must work hard. Am happy to tell you we are all very well. The Kensington air has done none of us any harm—am joined in all due respects by Mrs. Acton & Sister, to yourself & Family, I am dear Sir, yours sincerely,

Jno. Acton.

Shire Lane, 18th March, 1773.
Mr. Foster desires Compts."

This connection led to Acton's becoming, ultimately (as we are informed), Solicitor to the Bank of England, one of the greatest prizes to be obtained by any firm. With the exception of one short note, this is the last of his letters, which are for the most part sealed with the Acton arms, "Gules, two lions passant between nine crosses-crosslet fitchee," being the arms borne by the ancient family of Acton of Cheshire, from which John Acton was descended. The correspondence is taken up by Mrs. Acton, who writes to her sister in 1778 with congratulations on her marriage.

"My dear Mrs. Humphry,

By a letter from my sister last post we had the happiness of hearing the pleasing conclusion of an event which I hope will prove a continual source of felicity to yourself & Mr. Humphry and all your Friends. I beg in the name of all here you will accept our most sincere congratulations on the occasion. I find they are very gay in Sussex with their red coats; my sister has all the Beaus to herself, at Courtlodge I mean, as our old Friend will be glad of their company often. Captain Seymour slept with us last week in his way to Cockheath, his face more broad and full as *yellow* as usual; Mr. Humphry [Ozias Humphry] and Brother Henry dined with us on Sunday, the former will visit you soon I believe. Mr. Acton and Mary join their Love and best Respects to Mr. Humphry, yrself, and Fan, with her who is with all cordiality yours most affectly,

M. Acton.

Vauxhall, Novr. 17, 78."

The next letter to Mrs. Humphry is also dated from Vauxhall, 1784, where it seems the Actons were residing instead of at Camberwell. It was written by Mrs. Acton a few days before her death; her hand was evidently weak and feeble, and she lacked the strength to conclude the letter, which is finished in the hand of her sister-in-law and namesake.

"Vauxhall, December 23.

My ever dear and much loved Friend,

Accept tho' late our most hearty congratulations on the birth of yr. dear little George. May his happy parents enjoy every additional felicity that can attend so

desireable an event. I am wish'd to say our Family are ever at yr. service to select for a christening party. Many thanks to Mr. Humphry & you for our kind present ; I ventured to eat some, which was most excellent, I fancy pork is very scarce this year as we pay 8d. pr. pd.

Your good spouse made us a kind tho short visit, dare say he will tell you I continue very much the same, cannot get the right side the post. My last experiment is lay'd aside, cd. find no effect fm. it. We shall all mourn the loss of a good Brother, but I sincerely hope he will reap every expected benefit. I don't wish to bid him farewell, quite a serious business. You have, my dear, our every good wish for yr. speedy getting about again, & then I will tell you another wish *viz.*, that you will bring yr. little Nursery & stay some Time with us ; my little new Doctor wd. soon cure me, I have half gained one of the party already. I am rather tired ; my dear Mary will finish. Adieu, my dear, God Almighty Bless with health & all comfort you & yours.

M. Acton.

Love to our dear Friends on the Hill."

Then, in another handwriting :—

"You have nothing to regret in being confin'd this severe weather. I begin to think it is set in for three Months at least. Our poor Cook has had a fall and sprain'd her Arm dreadfully, we feared it was broke at first ; Mr. Carsan thinks she will not have the use of it for many months. I forget whether I told Mr. H. the story of Mrs. Williams. She was a Miss Chapman our Neighbour ; her friends have been Mourning for her since July, but some doubts having lately occur'd, they apply'd to Lord Mansfield to make him [Mr. Williams] produce certificates of her death &c. but to the astonishment of all parties he brought her in, alive and in perfect health. There are two children whom he had likewise *kill'd*. The day was fixed for his marrying a young Lady of large fortune. The Lord Mayor is so displeased at his conduct in making him wear Mourning that he is going to dissolve their partnership immediately, it is quite a novel story. There is not the least truth in the reports about the . . . of France, Lady Salisbury, or Mrs. Herbert ; the last was invented by an Irish Countess, against whom a prosecution is commenced. We spent a most agreeable day at Stockwell on Sunday ; Mr. Manning was much admir'd, he is a Devonshire Man, has a Brother a Clergyman at Exeter. With Love and Compliments of the Season to all, believe me, yours most Affectionately.

M. A.

Hope to hear from you soon."

Mrs. Acton died on 1st January following. Her offer, however, to stand sponsor for George Humphry was accepted, and carried out by Mr. Acton, as we learn from his last letter two months later, addressed to Mrs. Humphry :—

"My dear Madam,

I embrace the earliest opportunity of acknowledging the favor of your very kind Letter received *to-day*. I accept your obliging Invitation with great pleasure, & nothing but the continuance of my present very violent Cold & ill state of Health shall prevent my personal attendance. It is right to acquaint you I have engaged to answer for my little friend at River Hill [Elizabeth Woodgate, born February, 1785] in the same week, therefore the Families must settle between themselves as to the day & I write by the same Post to both Houses. I have unavoidable Engagements on next Wednesday & Thursday morning, but Friday, Saturday, Sunday, & Monday I am at all your Service. You will do me the favour of *pointing* upon some Fish, Oranges &c. My best respects to Mr. Humphry & my young friends, & have the Honor to be, Dr. Madam, yrs. most faithfully,

Jno. Acton.

Swithins Lane, 22nd March, 1785.

Permit me to request an Answer on Saturday next."

Mr. Acton did not long survive his wife, and died on 22nd March, 1787, still in the prime of life. He left but one child, John, born 1767, the other son having died; his sister, once more being left alone in the world, married, the next month, 26th April, Mr. Cleaton and had a daughter Mary Cleaton (*d*) born 1790. John Acton, the son, pursued no profession, it seems; and appears to have passed the rest of his life with the Cleatons.

John Acton is hereafter mentioned occasionally in the letters, and from time to time he would stay with his relations in Kent, such as at Riverhill or with his Aunt Rose Woodgate at Tonbridge, to whom he would send presents of game and Yorkshire hams. But living in Yorkshire, far from all the family, it is not unnatural that he should gradually drop out. He settled first at Hesterton; and then at Car Mount, in the Township of Ruswarp, Yorkshire.

In Dec. 1840, Mrs. Lipscomb, one of the daughters of Henry Woodgate of Riverhill, writes:—

“ We paid Mr. Acton a visit for a week this summer at his pretty place Carr Mount near Whitby; he sent us a pressing invitation by Mrs. J. Woodgate, who went to see him. It was a great pleasure to me to see him again; he is a very fine, hearty and handsome old Man. Miss Cleaton is rather a curiosity.”

One of Mrs. John Woodgate's sons was named Acton, after him; his life was short, but he reflected great credit on the name, and fell bravely fighting at Chillianwallah.

(*d*) Among the letters is one signed Mary C. (unless the C. is intended as a kind of flourish to the last letter), unaddressed and undated, beginning “ My good Friend, now my dear Aunt is quite out of danger I can philosophize with you, but whilst I was hourly in Fear of losing so excellent a Friend, Reason pleaded in vain—it ed. not reconcile me, &c., &c.” She continues to say that her father and sisters left at 6 o'clock that morning, and her uncle was shortly expected; and in the most pressing manner requests a visit to enliven her aunt and herself at Chingford Hall, which lay two hours by the coach outside London, beyond Hackney and Walthamstow. It is possible that the author was Mary Cleaton or her daughter Mary, and her correspondent one of the Humphrys; but this is only a hazard.

CHAPTER VI.

ASHBURNHAM OF BROOMHAM, SUSSEX.

Alicia Woodgate, the third daughter of the Revd. Francis Woodgate of Mountfield, b. 1741, m. in 1766 William Ashburnham of Broomham, in the parish of Guestling near Hastings, the eldest son of Sir William Ashburnham, Bart., Bishop of Chichester. The family of Ashburnham is very ancient; and as its earlier history is well known, it is sufficient to say here that Broomham had been in possession of the ancestors of this branch from time immemorial, and was brought into the Ashburnham name by the marriage of Richard Ashburnham with the daughter and heiress of Sir John Stoneling of Broomham. Richard's younger brother John was the ancestor of the Earls of Ashburnham, of Ashburnham, near Battle, whose title (and also that of Baron Ashburnham) is of more recent origin than that of the Baronet's, which was created in 1661. One circumstance may here be mentioned in connection with the family. It is asserted that Juxon, Bishop of London (whose portrait is at Broomham) and Sir Denny Ashburnham of Broomham were the only adherents of Charles I who were with that unhappy monarch on the scaffold. The latter obtained the watch which the King had in his pocket when he was executed, and likewise the shirt he then wore, which had some drops of blood on it, and some other relics. These were bequeathed in 1743 to the parish clerk of Ashburnham in Sussex and his successors for ever, and are deposited in the parish Church there.

Sir William Ashburnham, Bishop of Chichester from 1754 to 1797 (a), married

(a) Sir William Ashburnham, Bishop of Chichester, b. 1710, d. 14th September, 1797, leaving issue

1. *William* (Sir), of whom presently.
2. Margaret, d. unm., 1822-3.
3. Frances, d. unm. 4. Catherine m. Capt. Fitzgerald.
5. John, Capt. in General Brown's Horse and His Majesty's Page in Waiting, d. unm. May, 1768.

Sir William, b. 5th March, bapt. 29th March, 1739, at St. Anne's, Soho, M.P. for Hastings 1761-74, Deputy Keeper of the Great Wardrobe, High Sheriff of Sussex 1803, m. 12th April at St. Clement Danes, Alicia, dau. of Rev. Francis Woodgate of Mountfield (b. 15th August, 1741, d. 10th January, bu. 18th January, 1777 in Guestling Church). He died 21st August, 1823, aged 84, leaving issue

1. Sir William, bapt. 21st June, 1769, in Scotland Yard, m. at Seal, 7th July, 1825, d. 21st March, 1843, without issue. He married Juliana, daughter of the Rev. William Humphry of Seal, and Elizabeth his wife, dau. of Rev. Francis Woodgate; born 27th July, 1789, d. 22nd February, 1865.
2. John (Rev. Sir) B.D. of Clare Hall, Rector of Guestling 1795, Chancellor of the Diocese and Prebendary of Chichester 1796, Vicar of Pevensey 1816, b. 26th December, 1770, in Scotland Yard, d. 1st September, 1854. He married 1st Frances 4th dau. of William Foster of Hollington (b. 29th March, 1787, d. 11th April, 1838), and had issue
 - (a) John Piers, b. 28th March, 1821, d. 8th January, 1839.
 - (b) Sir Anchtel, Bart., b. 1828, father of the present Baronet.
 - (c) Lawrence.
 - (d) Sir Cromer, K.C.B., Major General.
 - (e) Fanny Alicia.
 - (f) Honor.

Sir John m. 2ndly Anne, dau. of Thomas Harman, who died without issue in 1873.

3. Denny (Rev.), B.A. Clare Coll., Cambridge, Vicar of Ditchling and Rector of Catsfield, Sussex, b. 20th May, 1773, d. 1843, m. 1st 20th February, 1802, Nancy, only child of Joseph Dickson of Calcutta, and relict of T. F. Bancroft (she died at Eltham, 1st May, 1818, without issue). By his second wife he left issue,

Margaret, daughter of Thomas Pelham, M.P. for Lewes, and Elizabeth his wife; the latter was daughter of Henry Pelham, Clerk of the Pells, younger brother of Lord Pelham of Laughton and uncle of Thomas Pelham Duke of Newcastle, and of his brother Mr. Henry Pelham, both of whom served as Premier under the early Georges. The Pelham influence was usefully exerted to secure the advancement of the family, and there are several letters among the Newcastle correspondence in the British Museum from different Ashburnhams, chiefly the Bishop of Chichester.

The Ashburnhams of Broomham on many previous occasions had represented Hastings in Parliament, and William Ashburnham, the husband of Alicia Woodgate, was returned together with Mr. James Brudenell in March, 1761. His town residence was in Albemarle Street; his father lived principally at the Palace in Chichester, and Broomham was only occasionally occupied by the family. Upon his marriage in 1766, he took a house in Scotland Yard, Westminster. In March, 1768, he was re-elected Member of Parliament for Hastings, and was made—at this or some other period—Deputy Keeper of the Great Wardrobe. There is a long series of letters from the different members of the family, the first of which was written from London in 1766 to the Rev. Francis Woodgate at Mountfield, on receipt of a Christmas hamper and a substantial Christmas present.

“ Dear Sir,

I am to thank you for a very obliging and kind letter I recd yesterday by Miss Woodgate; who, I have the pleasure to inform you, arrived here safe about 3 o'clock. Please to accept my grateful acknowledgments of the favour of £10 and £30 notes enclos'd in yr letter.

I certainly should have acquainted you and Mrs. Woodgate of my dear wife's illness at the beginning, had not her sister been continually with her, who wrote every post to inform you of the true state of her health, and whose account I believed would be at least as good, if not better, than what I cou'd have been able to have sent you. Your daughter has all the assistance that can be procured for her; is at present as well as can be expected; and hope and pray will in a short time be re-instated in her former health. We are extremely happy in having Miss Woodgate with us; yet, I own, shou'd be made more, far more happy might we hope ever to be indulged with yours and Mrs. Woodgate's presence here. I know there are great obstacles that deprive us of that happiness; and tho' it is not for me to advise upon that occasion, I may nevertheless be permitted to own that, cou'd it be brought about, with safety and satisfaction to yourselves, nothing wou'd afford me greater happiness. Our united duty and love attend on you and yr family. I am,

Your dutiful son,

Willam Ashburnham.

Mary Ellen, who m. 16th May, 1845, her cousin, John Eldridge West, Capt. 8th Regt.* and had seven children. He m. 3rd, 10th July, 1823, Harriet, dau. of William Luckie, who died 17th July, 1890, leaving issue Harriet Alicia, who m. 30th December, 1845, Rev. Alexander Chirol, B.A., of Clare Hall, Cambridge, and had several children.

4. George William, b. 2nd August, 1774, left issue by Hannah his wife (who d. 30th June, 1844).

(a) Flora, b. 1825, m. 1853 Colin Turing Campbell of Grahamstown, Cape Colony.

(b) George Percy, of Worcester Coll., Oxford. Left issue.

(c) Denny, d. unm., 1900.

(d) John Woodgate, b. 1840, m. 1864 Julia, dau. of Dr. Merriman, D.D., Bishop of Grahamstown, and had issue.

(e) Decima, m. 1863 George Montague Cole of Port Elizabeth.

(f) Bertram, d. 1860.

and four children who died in infancy,

5. Alicia, b. 10th January, 1777, m. December, 1804, James Eldridge West of Postern Park, Tonbridge.*

* See Reference Sheet.

London, Decr. 25th, 1766.

Mrs. Ashburnham joins me in returning you and Mrs. Woodgate very many thanks for the hospitable hamper of provisions : indeed, we are very much oblig'd by it. The hamper shall be returned next week, without fail."

The next letter is dated several months later from Crowhurst, where Mr. Ashburnham was staying with his uncle, Henry Pelham.

" Crowhurst, Aug. 9th, 1767.

Dr. Sir,

When I was last at Mountfield, you was so obliging as to say, that you shou'd be glad to see us again at any other time ; I now take the liberty of mentioning that Mrs. Ashburnham and myself intend doing ourselves the pleasure of waiting upon you again on Monday next, if that will be quite convenient ; if otherwise, I beg you wou'd be so good to let me know. We dine at Ashburnham [Ashburnham Place, belonging to the Earl of Ashburnham] on Monday and intend coming to Mountfield in the evening. I hope you will think Mrs. Ashburnham much mended in her health since you saw her ; indeed, I think her very much so, which affords me very great happiness. The notice which Lord and Lady Ashburnham have been pleased to take of us affords me the greatest joy ; and as it is a matter which so nearly concerns our welfare, I flatter myself it will be no disagreeable thing to you to hear of. I beg leave to trouble you with my kindest love to all your family, and believe me to be,

with the greatest regard, most affectionately yours

William Ashburnham."

There is in existence a letter from William Ashburnham to his cousin Thomas Pelham of Stanmer, Earl of Chichester, in 1773.

" My Lord,

I take the liberty of troubling your Lordship with this to request the Honor of you to be a sponsor, at the christening of our third son, now three weeks old. He was privately baptiz'd the day after he was born, by the name of Denny ; & we intend to have him christened about the end of this week ; viz. Friday or Saturday. The Countess of Ashburnham and my Uncle John Pelham intend doing us the like Honor. Mrs. Ashburnham presents her best compliments & joins me in the above Request ; & we both join in the same to Lady Pelham.

I have the Honor to be

Your Lordship's most obedient

Scotland Yard,

June 21st, 1773.

Humble Servant,

William Ashburnham."

There is an undated letter from Lady Ashburnham, the Bishop's wife, to her little grandson William, referring to the death of her cousin, Lady Catherine Pelham :

" Albemarle Street, Febry the 21.

Dear William,

Before I left Chichester, Mrs. Clark desired me to convey a little prayer book to you, that she begs your acceptance of. I sent it to you by Mr. Hollingbury last week and hope you received it safe, and desire you would let me know if you have received it. I desire you would tell your Papa that we all went into mourning last Sunday for Lady Catherine Pelham. I hope to hear you are all well. With my love to your Papa and your brothers, I am, dear Child,

Most affectionately yours,

M. Ashburnham."

The letter is sent under a cover franked "W. Chichester," and addressed to Hastings. William Ashburnham soon developed into a Poet of considerable promise; a note from Mrs. Frankland (*aa*) written a few years later, compliments Miss Ashburnham upon her ingenious nephew's poem, and begs leave to congratulate her and all the amiable young man's nearest connections on his abilities as a scholar and his general good character.

Alicia Ashburnham died 10th January, 1777, in giving birth to her daughter Alicia, and was buried in Guestling Church; we believe that the church, which was paved with brick, was destroyed by fire in the last century together with the monuments, but whether there exist any to her memory or that of her husband or family, we have not ascertained.

It appears that for some reason Alicia was not christened till nearly eighteen months after her birth; Miss Cresset, her godmother, was daughter of the Bishop of Llandaff and first cousin of Sir William Ashburnham. The letter referring to the event is addressed to Mrs. Woodgate at Mountfield:—

"Dear Madam,

I am to thank you for the very great favour you have done me in answering for my little daughter. The ceremony was performed on Sunday evening last. It was not in my power to send you word before it happen'd; therefore I hope you will excuse it. The other two sponsors were, my Father and Miss Cressett. My children are all well and desire their duty and love. I intend coming out of town within a fortnight and believe I shall go to Tunbridge Wells. I am sorry we can't come into Sussex, as my boys had promised themselves much pleasure in calling at Mountfield. There will be left at John's Cross, on Thursday afternoon, by the Diligence, a small parcel directed to yourself.

I beg my best respects to Mr. Woodgate and the rest of the family,
and am, dear Madam, your affectionate and obedient Servant,
W. Ashburnham.

Wimpole Street, Cavendish Square,
June 9th, 1778."

Placed in a situation so unfortunate, without mother or sisters, Alicia was brought up with her grandparents at Mountfield, and afterwards lived at Tonbridge with her aunts, when the Mountfield family was broken up. She, in common with her brothers, ever looked back on the Mountfield days with the greatest regard and affection, as appears more than once from their letters. Alicia's first letter is written in a round copy hand between ruled lines to her brother William at Edward Street, Portman Square, but the letter is inserted with greater propriety under "Mountfield," (see p. 62). Sir William writes to Mrs. Woodgate:—

"Edward Street, Portman Square.

April 11th, 1782.

Dear Madam,

I thank you for your last letter. It was a great satisfaction to me to hear that Alicia continued well. I should be very much obliged to you, at your leisure, to send me the same good account. I have lately hired a very good house in Edward Street, Portman Square. As Mrs. Woodgate has been so kind as to take charge of my daughter so long, and that too at a time when I scarcely knew how to take proper care of her—at least I was unable to do so with proper satisfaction to myself—I shall not think of fetching her home suddenly, but will take some opportunity soon of coming to Mountfield for one night, when we may talk the matter over.

I beg my respects to all the family at Mountfield, with love to Alicia, and am, dear Madam,

Your affectionate & obedient servant,
William Ashburnham."

(*aa*) Mrs. Frankland was, we believe, mother of the Countess of Chichester.

This is the latest letter from Sir William Ashburnham that remains to us, tho' he lived more than forty years longer. There is, however, another letter from his father, to the Earl of Chichester :—

“ Broomham, Septbr. 18th, 1782.

My Lord,

By a letter my daughter Fanny received last week from Mrs. Frankland, then at Stanmer, Lady Pelham was so good as to remind us of calling at Stanmer in our way to Chichester. We always intended ourselves that Honour ; & I now take the liberty of mentioning to your Lordship the time we have fix'd for our journey thither. We propose to set out o' Monday se'nnight Septbr. 30th & to dine at Stanmer o' Tuesday, Octobr. 18th, if your Lordship has no other engagements at that time to prevent us. If you have, may I beg the favour of a line to inform us of it, as there will be time enough for us to receive any such information before we leave Broomham.

I hope your Lordship will be so good as to excuse the trouble I have given you upon this occasion, and permit me, together with all our best Respects to Lady Pelham and Miss Pelhams, to assure you of that Regard and Esteem with which I have the Honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most Faithfull & affecte. Humble Servant,
W. Chichester.”

In 1794 there is a letter from Miss Frances Ashburnham of Chichester to her nephew William, directed to him at Tunbridge Wells, on the occasion of a poem which had been sent for her perusal :—

“ Chichester, Oct. 19, 1794.

It were impossible, my dear nephew, I should omit to acquaint you of the pleasure yr. excellent poem has given to your grandfather ; it gave me such true satisfaction to hear him express his approbation, that I should have felt myself greatly wanting in the affection of a regardful Aunt had I not given you the pleasing information. But as he might not have thought it *necessary* for me so to do, I would not have made *any proposal* to him of writing to you ; for while he is so perfectly pleased with you, God forbid I should cause one frown My sisters join me in love to my brother, yourself, and all my nephews, yours affectionately,
F. Ashburnham.

A letter directed for me to the Palace, Chichester, will come safe to hand.”

Besides the poem, William evidently held correspondence with the Bishop on religious matters ; one lengthy letter, or treatise, consisting of twenty-seven closely written pages, remains and enters into minute detail on many points. It is dated from Tunbridge Wells, 3rd February, 1796.

It would seem that William and Denny Ashburnham were placed under the instruction of the Reverend William Gordon, of Speldhurst. William was certainly there in 1795 ; and Denny from 1795 to 1798. Both took out game licences for those years, and the Revd. William Gordon and his son William (b), who were at Tunbridge Wells as lately as 1815, continued to do so for many subsequent years.

Mr. Gordon was a trustee of the settlement made on the marriage of Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove with the Hon. Georgina Hamilton ; it is possible that this may help to explain the circumstances of the name Gordon having been used by Henry Woodgate's descendants. We have two letters of his. The first dated from Tunbridge Wells, 1st August, 1799, thanks William Ashburnham for the loan of one of his plays ; the writer adds :—

“ I shall be very happy to see you here this summer. 'Tis true our retired manner of living would prevent me from inviting any young Gentleman except your-

(b) The Revd. William Gordon, junior, married on 24th June, 1816, Louisa, only daughter of Thomas Lewis, K.C., of Russell Square.

self, but I think I have seen enough of you to judge that your pleasures do not consist in dissipation. We have a spare Bed quite at your service, and I flatter myself there can be no objection, in case it be agreeable to you, why you should not use it. I shall be much disappointed if I have not the pleasure of your Company, whenever you can make it perfectly convenient, any time after the 21st inst. Please excuse this scrawl, which I have written amidst five unruly children. . ."

The second, just a month later, contains some criticism of the play, the "Virgin of the Sun"; he adds:—

"I hear your brother had a fall; I hope he is quite well again, and that Sir William & your brethren are well. We do not begin to shoot here till the 14th. If Sir Wm. & the Gentlemen in your neighbourhood have begun, pray give me a line."

After this Denny Ashburnham, the third son, went to Cambridge, when he writes to his brother William at Broomham:—

"Clare Hall, Novr. 11th, 1799.

Dear Brother,

My Father left Cambridge on Saturday morning, after which I breakfasted with Mr. Cresswell my Tutor, and was introduced into the Hall to dinner for the first time. I was much pleased with my new situation; the colleges are much finer buildings than I expected. We went to King's College Chapel on Friday evening; it is much the finest piece of Gothic architecture I ever saw. It consists of but one aisle, one large Gothic window at each end and many smaller ones at each side, all of which are painted glass, except the large one opposite the altar. The inside of the building is white, the choir is shut off by a partition of dark, rich coloured wood finely carved, over which is an excellent organ. They sang "Lord of all power and might" in a capital style; there were two boys who sang the duets charmingly. The scene altogether was the most solemn I ever witnessed.

Clare Hall is much the pleasantest of all the colleges; 'tis a stone quadrangle. My apartments consist of three rooms, two small and one large, with windows at each side; one looks into the quadrangle, the other into a grass platform with a gravel walk round it; on the left side of this platform stands King's College and Chapel, opposite a shrubbery, and on the right runs the river with a very elegant bridge over it.

With regard to my studies I can say nothing at present, only that my Father having permitted me to have a private tutor, 'tis our intention to learn the languages. The day we left you we called at Tunbridge; my sister was in good spirits and I was truly happy to find my Aunt Sally perfectly recovered. We slept at Seven Oaks and arrived in Town early next day. London was very dull: on Sunday we went to the Foundling Chapel in the morning; they sang an anthem of Dr. Boyce in which the man sang a solo with great expression; in the evening an anthem, opened by a treble duet, which was beautiful. On Friday we went to Drury Lane to see Hamlet and Blue Beard. Kemble was great throughout but particularly pleased me in the scene before the players and where he rings the queen. Durban played Polonius well, tho' the character will not admit of much. Mr. Chamberlain is not arrived yet, which I am sorry for, it being rather awkward at first not knowing anybody. We left Town on Wednesday the 6th: near Epping we met what would have pleased John to have seen, a regiment of the guards on their return from Holland, who appeared much war-worn. 'Tis almost an entire flat from London to Cambridge, and little diversity of country till you come to Audley House, the seat of Lord Howard's, which is a superb place. From thence to Cambridge, about 12 miles, is open campaign country with scarce a tree to be seen. We did not arrive till two hours after sunset, but it was clear and moonlight. I heard a very excellent sermon on Sunday at St. Mary's, the subject was the superiority of Christianity over Judaism and Mahomedanism. Give my kind remembrance to my brothers and John Dugdell, and I am, your affectionate brother,

Denny Ashburnham.

Blue Beard pleased me much, but I was surprised to find Kelly's voice so indifferent, tho' perhaps he gave the most perfect shake upon a very low note I ever heard. I think the music and action in the Tower scene greatly impressive."

Three weeks later he writes again, describing the allotment of his time to various studies. "The 45th Regiment of foot," he says, "passed through Cambridge, & it was feared would have made a disturbance owing to the high price of bread, which was then 13 pence a quartern loaf, but it fell the next week." He also writes about music, to which he was ever devotedly attached; his voice was exquisite and his taste refined.

Denny Ashburnham eventually took Orders in 1818. His eldest brother, William, amused a poetic fancy with innumerable fragments of verse and sonnets, some of which were printed in a quarto volume in 1795; and many were collected and printed after his death. A large number, however, remain, and of these the following is a specimen, not indeed of the best, for the scansion is weak; but the general effect is amusing:—

THE OLD MAID'S CONFESSION.

1.

When I was a maiden of blooming fifteen
I scornful and proud used to be;
I was led to expect wit, wisdom, and gold,
And nothing less would do for me.

2.

Ah! then was the time, when my eyes they shone bright,
My cheeks like the rose on the tree,
My ringlets they fell on a forehead so white
And Lovers came a courting to me.

3.

My first was a youth any girl might adore,
And ardent as lover could be;
But my Mother she found out the Lad was very poor,
So he would not do for me.

4.

My next was a Duke with his coronet of gold,
And garter tied around his left knee;
But his face, like his family, was wonderfully old,
So he would not do for me.

5.

My next was an Earl, who succeeded his Grace,
An Earl from the north countrie,
But he had Scotch brogue, and a lean hungry face,
And he would not do for me.

6.

My next was a Baronet with bloody red hand
Emblazon'd in heraldry,
But he had been known behind a counter to stand,
So he would not do for me.

7.

The next was a Doctor all burly and big
Expecting a very good See,
But I could not bear the thoughts of a horrid buz wig,
So he would not do for me.

8.

The next hobbled in my favour to beg,
 An Admiral and K.C.B.,
 But though famous in arms yet he wanted a leg,
 So he would not do for me.

9.

The next was a Nabob, just landed six weeks,
 Late Governor of Trincomalee ;
 Though his Guineas were yellow, yet so were his cheeks,
 So he would not do for me.

10.

The next was a Dandy, who had driven four in hand,
 Now reduced to a Tilbury ;
 But in getting over the ground he had run through his land,
 So he would not do for me.

11.

This was almost my last—I was then forty-four ;
 Alas ! I am now fifty-three,
 And I really think that some I rejected before,
 Would now do vastly well for me.

12.

Now my roses I borrow, my ringlets I buy ;
 I go out to cards and to tea ;
 If I venture an ogle, or hazard a sigh,
 There is no-one e'er returns them to me.

13.

Then all ye young Ladies from me warning take,
 Who scornful and proud chance to be ;
 Lest when from your fanciful dreams ye awake—
 Old maidens of fifty-three !

In 1795 Mr. Humphry, who had been favoured with the sight of some of his productions, thus addresses him :—

“ . . . I meant to have taken that Opportunity of writing, and of returning the Play and the Poems, with the Perusal of which you have been so obliging to favor me. I had formed a very high opinion of your Talents for Poetry from the Specimen which I had before seen, and am happy to say that it is by no means diminished by what I have lately read. The Play altogether is very interesting—many of the Passages highly Poetical—and the Language throughout extremely elegant and perspicuous, free from that Swelling and Bombast so very disgusting in many of our modern Tragedies. But to speak my real sentiments, I do not concur with you in opinion respecting the Deviations from History. It may possibly be admitted in Stories taken from dark and remote ages, or the History of foreign countries, as in the instance you mention from Shakespeare. I apprehend however that the same Liberty would not be approved of in a Period of our own History that is perfectly known—for it has a tendency to destroy the Credibility of the Story which must always lessen the *Effect*, and is likewise calculated to confound the *fabulous* with the *True*, which surely should carefully be avoided, and I believe you will find that Shakespeare in those Plays that are taken from our own History adheres in the main very closely to the facts. I should not be surpriz'd if it was owing to this that your Play was not admitted at the Theatre. Your Odes I was highly delighted with, and the Expostulatory Ode in particular contains much tender sentiment as well as a great deal of poetical Imagery. . . . Your Poem of the

Restoration of the Jews was greatly admired in this Neighbourhood, and Mr. Lambarde told me that on every fresh Perusal of it, he was charm'd with new Beauties. . . ."

Whether he ever succeeded in obtaining the representation of his plays on the stage we do not know. A letter from his friend, Mr. William Henry Palmer of Bedford Row, in 1820, informs us that a tragedy had been submitted to Mr. Elliston, the Manager of the Drury Lane Theatre, in which Kean was intended to have acted the chief part. He also mentions having read with great enjoyment a volume of Mr. Ashburnham's Tragedies. He adds: "I think you should not require a large premium for it as it is your first production of the kind, and they are very shy of new Authors. If the first takes well, the second will pay you better."

Under the *nom de guerre* of "Albert," William Ashburnham wrote one of the "Rejected Addresses," to be spoken at the opening of the new Theatre at Drury Lane, in October, 1812. It was a short address of about fifty lines. He says in reference to the destruction of the old building by fire

"Let our young Drury but your care engage . . .
And she shall rise—the Phoenix of her age."

It would seem that Sir William Ashburnham was never at Broomham for long at a time, for he would often pay long visits to Tunbridge Wells and London; Portman Square seems to have been his favourite residence in town. In 1802, his daughter Alicia, who was being brought up by her aunts Rose and Sarah Woodgate, at Tunbridge, spent a long time at Broomham for the purpose of being introduced to the people and neighbourhood. Sarah Woodgate writes of her in September:—

"We have heard from Alicia several times lately; she has been introduced to most of the Family's in the Neighbourhood, & has seen all our old acquaintances. She has been to one ball which proved a very good one, she led down the Dance with Mr. E. Millward. She meant to be at the Assembly yesterday. To-morrow we are to hear from her again. She spends her time very agreeably; they generally take a drive in the morning, & have a concert in the evening."

In December, 1814, Mary Anne Humphry writes:—

"Mr. Ashburnham called upon my Aunt on Tuesday morning. Sir William Ashburnham leaves the Wells the beginning of next month, & has taken an House in Town. His Family seem to consider him in a very precarious state, having lately been seized with another Fit."

Somewhere about 1823 Margaret Ashburnham, Sir William's sister, died at Chichester, where she had continued to live after the death of her father. The event is described by Rose Woodgate in a letter of the 29th January:—

"Mrs. James West [formerly Alicia Ashburnham] received a letter from her Brother yesterday mentioning the death of his Aunt Margaret. She died on Saturday; an express came to Guestling on Sunday, & Mr. John Ashburnham is gone to Chichester to superintend the funeral, which at her particular request is to take place at Guestling. Mr. John Ashburnham and Mr. Constable are her Executors. Sir William declines daily. . . . I think Mrs. Margaret's a very happy release. Mr. James West is invited to the Funeral, but I believe he will decline."

About three years before, her sister Frances Ashburnham had been dangerously ill, but for the time being recovered. Julia Humphry, who soon afterwards married William Ashburnham (junior), writes on 11th June:—

"Mrs. Frances Ashburnham has lately been extremely ill, & her life considered in imminent Danger. Mrs. Jas. West was sent for to the Wells the week before last and was with her for several successive days. She expressed a great desire to see Mr. Ashburnham, & in compliance with her wishes he came to Tunbridge on Saturday, & has been spending a few days at Dryhill. I took a drive to the Wells

with Mrs. Jas. West on Wednesday when her alarming symptoms had subsided, & she was considered out of danger. Mr. Ashburnham is looking very well; he returned to Broomham on Thursday, & requested to be kindly remembered to you & my sisters. . . . Mr. Ashburnham was much pleased with the reception he met with when he presided at the County meeting in Sussex, given in order to celebrate the return of the County Members. It was attended by all the respectable gentry, clergy and yeomen in that part of Sussex, amounting to more than two hundred. He was supported in the chair by the County Members, Mr. Burrell & Mr. Curteis, & I understand from Mrs. Mascel that he did the honors extremely well, & was thought to display great talents for *public speaking*. Mr. Ashburnham has since received a very flattering letter from Lord Ashburnham, saying how happy he was to hear he was coming forward on public occasions & giving him a very kind Invitation to Ashburnham."

In 1823 Sir William's health failed. Julia Humphry writes of him :—

"Sir William's health continues much the same; I imagine he has quite lost his faculties, & is reduced to a state of second childhood;" and Maria West (the daughter of William Woodgate of Summerhill) writes from Hastings soon afterwards :—

"William West is just come from Broomham, & says a great alteration has taken place in Sir Wm. during the night; he has entirely lost his speech & his sons think it unlikely he will survive the week."

He died at Broomham on 21st August, aged 84. The papers of the day (c) describe his liberality to the poor, who when ill were always allowed nourishment from his house. On doling day, instead of lavishing money on his tenants, he made it his custom to distribute flour in proportion to the number of each family. It is mentioned, as an instance of his moderation, that he never allowed the rents to be raised, and his tenants paid the same amount that they did to his father. By his will which was proved in 1824 (or by the settlement) Broomham and the Winchelsea estate passed to his eldest son William. Besides a considerable landed estate and other property, he left £30,000 in Government stock.

It was not long before Sir William, the eldest son, made proposals for his cousin Julia Humphry, but not until an engagement with a Miss Ailing had very nearly been concluded; as our information of this affair is contained in three letters, we cannot describe it better than by giving extracts from them. The first is written by Julia Humphry about June, 1824, describing the arrangements made by Capt. Streatfeild R.N., immediately before his marriage with Anne Woodgate of Riverhill :—

"James John West received a letter from his uncle last week, written with his usual flow of spirits and speaking in the highest terms of the Beauty & agreeable qualities of his intended Lady. You will be surprised to hear that Capt. Streatfeild formerly paid his addresses to Miss Ailing & that an engagement subsisted between them for some years. She was introduced to the Chidingstone Family; as the fortune on each side was limited Mr. Streatfeild recommended a little delay, during which time Sir William's partiality was hinted, or she had an offer from a gentleman of larger fortune, upon which this Lady wrote to Capt. Streatfeild saying her sentiments were changed, and she must regret their engagement to be considered at an end. You will have the goodness not to mention this unless you hear it from any other quarter, altho' it is generally known here."

She writes on 5th November, 1824 :—

"I do not know whether you are aware that obstacles have arisen with regard to Sir Wm. Ashburnham's marriage; at all events it is postponed for the present and it is considered doubtful whether it will ever take place. The *demur* has arisen as is

frequently the case on settlements. Sir Willm was disposed to be extremely liberal, which Miss Ailing's family took advantage of & wished for nearly the whole of the unencumbered estate to be settled on her. Mr. Palmer considered this very unreasonable, & on the part of Sir Willm has remonstrated which occasions the delay. I must request you not to drop a hint of this, altho' you may perhaps hear it from James West on Sunday. The Gentleman consoled himself by having a large Party at Broomham last Tuesday, consisting of Ld. Robert Fitzgerald, Alderman Atkins (who is staying at Hastings) and all the Gentlemen in the Neighbourhood with whom he is acquainted."

And again on the 16th:—"I have heard from many quarters that Sir Willm Ashburnham's marriage is at an end. James John West was here last night, & mentioned having received a letter from his uncle a few days ago confirming the report. The final breach was occasioned by Settlements; Sir Wm. offered five hundred a year which was thought insufficient by Miss Ailing and her Brother. It has been an unfortunate affair for Sir Wm., altho' many of his Friends are of opinion, from the unamiable character of the Lady, that he has had quite an escape. I have not heard Mrs. Jas. West mention the subject of her Brother's marriage, & having only heard it from James must request you not to mention the particulars at present."

In April, 1825, Sir William Ashburnham formally proposed to Julia Humphry, in a long letter, couched in terms of the most eloquent appreciation; we do not feel justified in transcribing it at length, but one passage furnishes the keynote to much of their life at Broomham:—

"On one point among many others (and it is to me a point of the greatest importance) I am convinced we shall cordially agree, namely in appropriating a large portion of the surplus of our income in the service of charity; and I assure you that you will never appear so much like an angel in my eyes, as when you become the distributor of my bounty. Your gentle manners and benignant feelings will leave the balm of blessing wherever you bestow a gift. You will be a ministering Seraph to the poor of my parish, the admiration and delight of my neighbours, the pride, the glory, and the comfort of my home. . . ."

Enclosed with the letter was one to Mrs. Humphry. The reply was favourable, and evoked another letter to Mrs. Humphry, which we are fortunate enough to possess:—

"Tunbridge, May 5th, 1825.

My Dear Madam,

I return you my best thanks for your very kind and most acceptable Letter of the 2nd instant. Next to the acquiescence of your Dear daughter, nothing could afford me greater satisfaction than to find that my offer of marriage to my Dear Julia has received your Sanction and cordial approbation; the Sanction and approbation of a parent, and such a parent as you have always been to your children, must afford me the highest gratification. Amongst the numerous virtues and good qualities which gem the brow of your lovely, your excellent daughter, filial piety shines very conspicuous. How happy am I to have obtained a prize so inestimable!

In regard to the encomiums that you have been pleased to bestow so lavishly on me, and which so far transcend my deserts, I shall only say that it will be an object of ambition with me to strive, in some degree, to deserve them. I will endeavour, my Dear madam, to be what you wish me to be. In every thing that concerns your Dear daughter, I will consider how her revered mother would wish me to act, and you shall be on these occasions the guiding star to direct my conduct. I love your Dear daughter with the truest, the most ardent affection; to be her husband will be to me the summit of earthly felicity, and it shall be my care to show my gratitude for the blessing of her hand, by endeavouring on all occasions, small as well as great, to promote her comfort, her ease, her pleasure, and her wishes.

Her sweet smiles will irradiate my home with the beams of gladness, and give a colour to my future life.

Your observations on my pecuniary affairs are liberal in the extreme. I must however repeat that the Settlement of five hundred pounds per annum which I propose to make on your Dear daughter, as a jointure after my death, is very inadequate to her merits, and far, very far below what I could wish ; it is, however, unfortunately all I have in my power at present to offer. The interest arising from my Dear Julia's own fortune, bequeathed to her by her father, will, after my demise and your own, augment the amount of her jointure ; that she is satisfied with the Settlement I proffer evinces that moderation which is only one amongst her numerous good qualities.

May providence, my Dear Madam, prolong your invaluable life to an unusual extent that you may behold us for a long series of years, surrounded by our children, and witness the happiness I shall enjoy from a union with your beautiful, amiable excellent daughter !

As Miss Humphry is going to Seale to-morrow she is so good as to be the bearer of this Epistle which I send as my fore-runner, as I shall, with your permission, have great pleasure in dining with you at Seale to-morrow, Friday, May 6th, at four o'clock. I remain, with sentiments of the greatest regard and esteem, My Dear Madam, yours very affectionately,

William Ashburnham."

Several letters of congratulation from various friends and relations remain, but we will content ourselves with two of them, namely from Mrs. C. Hardinge and Sir Richard Hardinge :—

" It is needless I am sure, my dear Julia, to tell you how much we are delighted at the news of the happy establishment you are going to form—so honorable & unexceptionable a connection with so much sterling worth on *both* sides, bids fair for as much Domestic Felicity as Mortals may hope to enjoy. More universal Pleasure was never felt in any such connection, & as I always looked on you as *one of my good girls* (at least an *Aunt*) you must teach your Friend to consider himself as a *Nephew*. Your Mother is quite renovated. Caro. sheds tears of joy, & we are all happy. What can I say more ? Ever affectionately yours,

May 8.

Caroline Hardinge.

Compts. to Mrs. R. Woodgate."

" London, Friday.

Dear Mrs. Humphry,

Upon the happy event of Julia's expected Marriage you will have a load of congratulation and for my part I don't know how to express my gratification. However, I can assure you I consider it as a boon of Providence to Myself, and that I do not feel sensible enough of it notwithstanding, inasmuch as your merits & amiable Conduct have been so great & so conspicuous throughout yr. life and so valuable to our dear friends at the Grove that I cannot feel joy commensurate to ye occasion, and I may add that ye Merits of the Bride Elect bid fair when tried in ye Ordeal of Marriage & ye Motherly State to equal yours when she arrives at your age. I beg to add my best regards & congratulations to all your admirable Daughters, being always yr. sincere friend,

Richd. Hardinge."

There are very kind letters from Mrs. Charles Hardinge (Emily Callender), Mrs. Nouaille*, Mr. Cade, Mrs. Petley*, and others, which cannot here be reproduced.

The marriage settlement was dated 6th July, 1825, whereby certain property was conveyed to the Trustees upon Trust to pay the income to Sir William Ashburnham for life (except £100 a year pin money to Lady Ashburnham) ; and after his

*See Reference Sheet.

death, Lady Ashburnham to receive £500 a year jointure. The Trustees were James Eldridge West, George Palmer, Francis Woodgate (of Ferox Hall), and Peter Nouaille the Younger.

The wedding was celebrated at Seal on 7th July, 1825, by the Rev. John Ashburnham, Rector of Guestling; and those who signed the register were Henry Woodgate of Riverhill, Mary Anne Humphry, Frances Humphry, and Alicia Amy West. The following day the Bride and Bridegroom set out for Broomham, and on their arrival at Guestling were accorded a highly gratifying reception, which is described in a letter of Lady Ashburnham on the 9th July:—

“ My dearest Mother,

In the expectation of the arrival of Waters with my Packages from Seal, I enclose a few lines to send by him, knowing it will afford pleasure to yourself and my Sisters to receive an account of our journey and arrival at Broomham. On our arrival at Tunbridge we were greeted by the ringing of Bells and on reaching my Aunt's door it was so surrounded by strawbers, Handbells, &c. that it was with difficulty we could gain admission. My Aunt I am happy to say is quite well and appeared much gratified by the visitors she received on that day. We were soon followed by Mr. & Mrs. James West & a part of their Family and Mr. & Mrs. J. Ashburnham, who proceeded with us to Guestling. We reached Broomham about eight o'clock, after having had a most favorable journey. At the Park Gate we were received by the whole Parish of Guestling, with strewing and loud acclamations of joy. Indeed it is most gratifying to witness the manner in which Sir Wm. Ashburnham is looked up to by his servants, neighbours and Dependants. Broomham far exceeds the expectations I had formed, & the grounds & gardens with a little Improvement are capable of being rendered very delightful; the House is much in the same state as when Fanny & myself visited it last Summer, with the exception of our Bed Room which is fitted up in a modern manner with every accommodation. Indeed, every wish I can form is anticipated by the affection and attention of Sir Wm. Ashburnham & I never can be sufficiently grateful to him, or thankful to Providence for being united to a man of such exemplary Character and Conduct. Tell my Sisters the Hall boasts a most beautiful display of Geraniums, but as they have *been drawn*, in order to *force the blossoms*, I shall defer making the request of procuring them some cuttings untill I have the great pleasure of seeing them at Broomham. We are looking forward with much Interest to the arrival of *the detachment* of plants from Seal. Sir Wm. Ashburnham as well as myself derives the utmost satisfaction from the kind manner in which we were received by all our Friends on Thursday last. I sincerely hope that you, my dear Mother, experienced no ill effects from the exertion of that day; & altho every feeling of regret is not to be repressed, at the separation from such dear Relatives, yet it is greatly softened by the idea of the frequent intercourse which Sir Wm. Ashburnham has most kindly assured me shall always subsist between us. I trust my Sisters are quite recovered from the fatigue of Preparation, &c. I shall hope to hear to day that they passed a pleasant Evening at Greatness. I have been much occupied both yesterday & to day in packing & directing wedding cake; I hope Fanny will have sufficient for her Friends, as the whole at Broomham is disposed of. I depend on each of my dr. sisters writing to me very frequently. We do not attend Church till to-morrow sennight. I am to commence the superintendence of the Family on Monday. Jane reached Broomham before me and appears to like her new abode. We are going to explore the beauties of the surrounding scenery & must therefore conclude. Sir Wm. Ashburnham joins me in kindest Regards to my sisters and yourself, & Believe me, my dearest Mother, yr truly affect. Daughter,

Broomham,

Juliana Ashburnham.

July 9th, 1825.

Sir William Ashburnham desires me to say with his most affectionate Regards, that you will receive a Letter from him in the course of a few days. The Packages from Seal are just arrived, we are much obliged to dear Fanny for her exertions. The Plants appear to have suffered less than cd. have been expected from the Journey. Have the goodness to let Mrs. Hughes know that her Daughter is arrived here safe & well, 10 o'clock."

From this period until 1833 there is an almost unbroken series of letters, with an average of more than one to each month; it would be impossible to set out at length each letter, and the utmost we can do is to make some selections from the voluminous correspondence that succeeds. Hastings was at that time a very favourite resort, especially with many members of the family, and the allusions to the Wests, Nouailles and other relatives are constant. The next letter is about a month later.

" Broomham, August 7th, 1825.

My dear Fanny,

I fear you have accused me of inattention in not having written to you before, but really my time has been so entirely occupied in *receiving visitors and returning visits*, attending Parties, &c and *finishing my dresses*, that really I have not had an hour at my own disposal. Sir Willm. Ashburnham desires me to thank my Mother for her kind Letter, by which we learnt that you have all been spending a little time at Tunbridge. I depend on receiving a full account of the manner in which you passed yr. time. We have not heard from Mrs. James West for some time, and we are anxious to know how our Friends in Kent are disposing of themselves and whether the Dryhill Family visit Brighton this season. Since I wrote to Mary Anne I have had many morning visitors, & the neighbourhood here being so distant a great part of our time has been occupied in returning visits. Mr. and Mrs. Camac came to Hastings about a fortnight ago and were early in their attentions at Broomham. Mrs. Camac appears quite a woman of the world and is extremely lively and entertaining in her manner; they brought an Invitation to dine with them last Wednesday which we accepted, and met a Party of eighteen at Dinner. Nearly the whole Company had assembled before we entered the Room & I confess I felt myself a little overpowered by the novelty & splendor of the scene; but the manners of the Hostess were so encouraging that I regained my composure before I was handed out of the Room by Mr. Camac. The party consisted of Sir George Prescott's family, who have taken Battle Abbey for five years, Mr. Brisco and Mr. Musgrave, Mr. and Mrs. Wastel Brisco, Mr. & Mrs. Shadwell, two officers, & Mr. & Mrs. Shorter. We had an excellent dinner consisting of Soup, Fish, Venison, &c., it was extremely well served up and we had a very agreeable visit. I must now proceed to give you an account of the Lewis Races which we attended last week. We left Broomham on Thursday morning; the weather was unfavourable for our journey & the Roads not good, however we reached Wantons, Mr. Dugdell's, about six o'clock in the Evening. From the high manner in which Sir Willm. speaks of Mrs. Dugdell I was prepossessed in her favour and she appears to be an amiable & sensible woman, & they paid us every attention during our stay. On Friday morning we proceeded to Lewis, & attended the Race course; in consequence of the previous Rain and the heavy showers that fell during the morning the scene was not so gay as usual, altho' the Duke of York & many elegant equipages were on the Ground. I had a good view of his Royal Highness who pass'd the carriage on Foot several times. Ld. Abingdon's, Ld. Chichester's & Ld. Egremont's carriages & four were also on the course. In the Evening we attended the Ball, upwards of two hundred Persons were present amongst whom were many of the nobility and leading gentry of Sussex. I cannot attempt to enumerate the different persons I heard named, but I will mention some of the most considerable. Ly. Chichester, her two Daughters & Ld. Pelham, Ld. & Lady Abingdon, Ld. & Lady Gage, Lady Dane, Sir G. & Lady Shiffner, Sir John & Lady Shelley, &c. I had the honour of being introduced by Sir Wm. to Lady Chichester & she

afterwards introduced me to her two Daughters, the Ladies Mary & Amelia Pelham; they are not handsome, but appeared to enjoy the Ball exceedingly & to possess very amiable and pleasing manners. All the Luxford family were present; I was a good deal with them & they were happy to renew their acquaintance. I was also *congratulated* by Mr. Donald & Mrs. Fitzhugh who is not the least altered and looks as well as when Mary Lane; Mrs. Lane was with her Party. Sir G. Shiffner's eldest son is lately married, & Mrs. Shiffner & Miss——(illegible) were considered the Belles of the Evening . . . There was a magnificent & brilliant display of Diamonds among the Ladies but the most splendid *set* was Mrs. Camac's.

On Wednesday we dine with Mr. & Mrs. Wastel Brisco at Battle. The Neighbourhood wish to establish Balls at Battle & one is to be attempted this week which we are to attend with them. I am sure you will think my head will be turned by the number of our Engagements, & indeed I am a little of the same opinion. I was shocked to see in the Papers the death of the Duchess of Dorset. Pray recollect I have received very little news of my native land since our marriage. Sir William is going to send to the post this afternoon when I hope to receive a letter from you, & as dinner hour is arrived I must conclude."

Mrs. Camac had been a Miss Brisco of Coghurst, and was married three times. William Camac was her first husband. He belonged, we believe, to an Irish family, and he had spent the earlier part of his life in India, where he had realized a very large fortune. "He shook the Pagoda tree and the diamonds fell down." The diamonds, worn by Mrs. Camac, were justly celebrated. The Camacs and Briscos are referred to continually in the course of the letters, and were considered leaders of Hastings society.

On 1st September Miss Humphry paid her sister a visit at Broomham. We have no letters of hers on this occasion, but one from Marianne to her aunt Rose Woodgate, dated 8th September, 1825, sufficiently sets out the circumstance attending this event:—

"Fanny left us for Brome Ham yesterday week to make Sir William & Julia a visit. This morning I have received a long letter in which she tells me that she received a cordial welcome from Sir William & Julia & that a happier meeting does not often occur. Julia is looking remarkably well and appears quite at home in her new situation; there is so much kindness and attention in Sir William that a more perfect picture of connubial happiness cannot be witnessed. In consequence of several engagements their dinner parties are postponed till the present week. Tuesday they expected a party of twenty, & the same number on Friday. On Friday last they all dined at Battle Abbey with Mr. and Mrs. Camack & a party of fourteen; she adds it was quite a *treat* to see the House, which is magnificent & fitted up in a superb manner. The furniture of the drawing room (with pillars) cost Sir Godfrey Webster £5,000. They were agreeably surprized at meeting Mr. and Mrs. West's party at Hastings, & you have probably seen Mrs. West e'er this & heard the particulars of their visit into Sussex. *Report* says that Mrs. North is likely to enter a second time into the matrimonial state, with a Mr. Wilson, who has a good appointment in the Customs house. Our friends at the Grove departed for Hastings on Tuesday morning at ten o'clock; they had taken a house in Waterloo Place, & Captain Hardinge started the day before to prepare everything for their arrival."

Marianne Humphry succeeded her sister at Broomham; the latter writes from Seal, on 9th November:—

"My dear Julia,

. . . We were most happy to receive your kind Epistle, the recital of your late excursion afforded us much amusement, from which we are happy to find Sir William & yourself derived so much enjoyment. Considering the season of the year is so far advanced, I do think the weather was most propitious which in seeing a

new country is always a desirable circumstance. Altho' you did not find Lord & Lady Chichester at home, yet your visit to Stanmer may be productive of future intercourse with that noble & highly estimable family. Marianne anticipates much pleasure from her intended visit to Broomham. . . . I am very sorry to hear Mrs. Camack has postponed her Ball, fearing it may disappoint us of the pleasure we had anticipated of seeing you at Seal at the end of December, I still hope it will take place before that time."

" Broomham, Novr. 13th, 1825.

My dear Fanny,

. . . Pray give my kind regards to Mary Anne & tell her that as she leaves it to us to fix the day, we shall hope to see her at Broomham next Saturday. Sir William recommends her to secure a Place by one of the first Hastings Coaches, & his Carriage will be in readiness to meet her on Fairlight when the Coach arrives. Broomham is really a cold House, I therefore hope Mary Anne will take every precaution of *warm clothing*, that her engagements here may not be interrupted by the *intrusion of colds* or any other complaint. Friday is fixed for Sir William's audit when the Servants will be all fully engaged. We joined a party of seventy at Miss Millwards (d) last Thursday Evening. Mr. & Mrs. West and their Niece were there [Frances Woodgate, afterwards Mrs. Musgrave Brisco], Fanny looked very pretty & was a good deal admired, but I agree with you in thinking she does not appear to advantage in Dancing. I believe the next Ball at Hastings is fixed for the 24th. Many new arrivals have taken Place during our absence, & the *Fashion* of the company considerably improved, and I observed several very pretty young women. To morrow I believe we are to attend Mrs. Camac's *at Home* and shall then have no other engagements till after Mary Anne's arrival. Sir Willm. is much obliged by the Promised plants, the wet weather has been unfavourable for gardening. Sir William has had a most satisfactory letter from James; he writes in high spirits & appears delighted with Cambridge; he expresses the greatest gratitude towards his Father, who in addition to the allowance he makes him has afforded him a Private Tutor. We called on Mrs. Guerdon last week, she was looking very delicate but considers herself to have derived benefit from her Residence at Hastings. Mr. Guerdon was in Suffolk, & Mr. Lambarde was passing a few days with her, his Daughter. The cold season appears to have set in unusually early, the walking here is very indifferent in consequence of the late Rains, & the Park & Grounds are very wet. My Mother's old friend Mr. Gordon is staying at Hastings at the same Lodgings we were in last year; he is in good Health & very cheerful, but totally blind. His Daughter Miss Gordon with her Friend Miss Saint were at the Miss Millward's Party. I understand the Miss Eyles' are also at Hastings. Mrs. West tells me she has been in search of a Lodging for Mrs. Allnutt & Maria, who wish to visit Hastings for six weeks, but poor Mrs. Allnutt has had an attack of spasms, which will prevent her leaving Home at present. I hope Mrs. Camac's Ball will take Place before Xmas that Mary Anne may have an opportunity of attending it."

The next letter, written on the 8th, refers to the ill health of John Ashburnham and Sir William; the latter soon recovered and resumed his walks to Hastings.

" Broomham, Decr. 17th, 1825.

My dear Fanny,

Mary Anne having left us to pass a few days with Mr. and Mrs. West at Hastings, I *flatter* myself a letter from me will not prove unacceptable to my Dear Mother & yourself. I have the satisfaction to inform you that Mrs. John Ashburnham was safely confined last night with a fine little girl, & I am happy to add both Mother &

(d) The Milwards occupied a leading position at Hastings, being one of the old families of the place. Their descent appears to be from Edward Milward, Esq., son of Capt. Edward Milward of Hastings, who died 29th October, 1749, aged 67, leaving by Elizabeth his wife (who died 31st January, 1742, aged 47) a son, John Spencer Milward, Esq., who died in 1760, aged 32. Mary, daughter of Capt. E. Milward, died in 1753, aged 67.

child are doing well. You will I know expect some account of our Engagements. Our visit to Windmill Hill proved a most agreeable one. Mr. H. Curteis is residing with his Father. I thought him a good deal altered, & appears by no means to have recovered his spirits; Mr. & Mrs. Curteis were extremely attentive, & gave us a pressing Invitation to visit them again. We met a Party of sixteen at Dinner. Miss Curteis is a lively agreeable young Woman, & Mary Anne was delighted with her. I am grieved to find the last accounts of Lydia Luxford give but faint hopes of her Recovery. Last Tuesday we dined at Mrs. Bird's with a small Party; in the Evening all her Rooms were thrown open, when she had an addition of forty more visitors. The younger part of the Company amused themselves by dancing Quadrilles. The Miss Birds are pleasant accomplished young women. Wednesday we dined with Mr. and Mrs. Stileman, & met Dr. & Mrs. Lamb, the Deane's, Richards's, &c. Thursday Evening we attended a Party at Mrs. Fawkes's who is residing in one of the best Houses in Wellington Place. There is a great similarity in all the Hastings Parties, Quadrilles are the constant amusement of the Evening. At Present a scarcity of Beau's prevails but a reinforcement is expected next week when the young Men leave the Universities. Mr. & Mrs. West & their Niece are much engaged; Fanny excites much admiration & is considered one of the leading Belle's; this Eveng Mrs. West has her first *at Home*, which we have promised to attend. A rumour has reached us that the New Years Ball at Sevenoaks this year will not take Place in consequence of the Dry rot having made such rapid Progress. Mary Anne went to Mrs. West on Thursday Evening, and is to return to Broomham on Tuesday when a large Party are to dine there; we expect Dr. Wellesley [brother of the Duke of Wellington], two of his Daughters & Mr. Wellesley, two Mr. Briscos, Mrs. Casarlet, Mr. J. Hodges, Dr. Wilmot & his son, our Postern Friends, the Miss Birds, Dr. & Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Wynch & Mr. Wynch. Perhaps I should apologise for giving you the trouble of perusing so long a list of names, but know you are interested in what is going on at Broomham. Mr. J. Dugdale has been staying here & at Hastings for the last ten days, but leaves this Evening. I had a letter from my Aunt Rose yesterday, she gives a good account of herself & an improved one of Mrs. J. West."

At the end of the year Sir William and Lady Ashburnham paid a visit to the Revd. Denny Ashburnham, who afterwards wrote his brother a letter from which we will quote; much of it is taken up in a critical appreciation of the music at St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey.

" 27, Upper Marylebone Street, Portland Place.

Janry. 3rd, 1826.

Dear Brother,

Is there no hope of pardon for neglect like this? None! stern conscience readily replies, except where Christian principles prevail and where the reformation not the punishment of the offending party is contemplated. Here then is my hope, here my consolation, and here my trust & confidence of reconciliation rest. Now to proceed! Another year, another happy year is gone, happiest in the train of all that's past to me, and pray tell Lady Ashburnham that your joint visit to the vicarage stands a pleasing & distinguished feature in that happy period. Accept our wishes therefore that Lady Ashburnham & yourself may experience similar felicity in this and every year to come.

I presume ere now you have recommenced your ornamental plantations, and girt the ancient mansion with the cone-like fur, the sombrous cedar, & the graceful larch, and rendered it that which it never was before, the seat of Taste, Intelligence and Genius.

. . . Your recommendations on our musical department have had the desired effect of exciting a laudable ambition of improvement, but to what degree I hope a future opportunity will offer of hearing your opinion. I am vain enough to imagine

that we have hit off a new mode of practice, combining both mechanical & scientific information wh. I think must naturally accelerate our progress & render it emulative.

I heard from Mr. Bishop the other day saying that Mr. Cazolet would pay your baillif for the wood he purchased fr. the Glebe. You would oblige and convenience me much by allowing him to collect what is due to me for that article & forwarding it to Town before the end of this month as I am anxious to purchase a little stock as soon as possible. The Mackenzies are gone to Brighton where I expect to see them on my return. Mrs. Ashburnham desires her kind Respects to yourself and Lady Ashburnham, to whom you will remember me affectionately, and I remain your affecte. Brother,

D. Ashburnham.

Kindest regards to the Rector & his Lady. Pray tell me of your improvements, &c."

That year saw Sir William involved in serious difficulties, which it is impossible to understand with accuracy. It seems that their origin lay in the Rye Harbour Bill, by which the Ashburnham title to a certain estate was compromised. The Bill was introduced by Mr. Richard Whitton, and passed in 1830.

"Sussex Hotel, Bouverie Street, Fleet Street.

April 4th, 1826.

My dear Julia,

When absent from you, my beloved wife, nothing affords me greater delight than to correspond with you by Letter, because I know that everything that relates to me or my affairs excites an interest in your fond, your affectionate bosom. I therefore hasten, the moment I returned from Mr. Palmer's, to snatch up my pen to communicate to you the result of our interview, which I am happy to say has turned out most satisfactorily, inasmuch as I have every reason to think that I shall be able, through Mr. Palmer's kindness, to raise money sufficient to discharge my most pressing incumbrances within the space of the present month. The report respecting the title to my sheep-house estate is upon the whole rather favourable. Mr. Palmer has seen Mr. Green, the Solicitor to the Commissioners of Crown Lands, who says, that it is by no means the wish or intention of Government to commence vexatious Suits, nor to harrass the Subject. The Commissioners are only desirous fairly to ascertain whether the Lands in question do or do not belong to the crown. This is very right and proper. Mr. Palmer has promised to send Mr. Green a copy of the different grants under which I hold; and Mr. Palmer thinks that when Mr. Green has perused them, he will be of opinion that the crown has no shadow of any claim whatsoever to any part of the estate which I possess.

As I came through Tunbridge I just caught a smile from your sister Fanny, as I passed my Aunt's window. My nephew William West met me at the Crown, with whom I had a hurried conversation for a few moments. He told me that Wise had finished the flower table that I had ordered, and that it was a very well executed piece of workmanship. I should have liked to have seen it exceedingly, but had not time. I desired that it should be sent immediately to your sister Fanny, who I hope will be pleased with my present."

The letter is extremely long, and contains a descriptive account of the health of various friends, which at the time was an interesting subject, but at this distance the theme has lost its attraction. There is a good account of the nursery gardens at Vauxhall and the theatre at Drury Lane, but the subject is too general for the present occasion. The letter affords many striking instances of the affection and esteem the author felt for Lady Ashburnham, which is shewn in all his subsequent letters. This letter is succeeded by another, dated the 8th April, from the Sussex Hotel:—

"I understand that the Rye-harbour bill is to be proceeded with next week, notwithstanding the serious indisposition with which Mr. Richard Whitton is afflicted, his father having undertaken to transact the business in his Son's behalf.

Mr. Richard Whitton, I am told, lies dangerously ill of a brain fever, which illness is supposed to have been occasioned by his having caught cold after having taken large doses of calomel. I wish Mr. Richard Whitton no harm, notwithstanding his conduct has been most pernicious and inimical to me ; but the business, perhaps, will proceed more smoothly and more amicably now it is conducted by his father."

The letter further describes Miss Humphry's satisfaction on receiving the rose-wood flower table ; and his visit to the exhibition of Associated Artists. He was much pleased with Mr. Hutchins the dentist, who supplied the deficiencies amongst his teeth with great skill and judgment ; but the charge was no light one, fifteen guineas. At that time James West was seriously ill, and fears were entertained even for his life. Sir William Ashburnham was himself disturbed by the harassing perplexity of his affairs, but the judicious arrangements made by Mr. Palmer relieved him from present difficulties. The next few letters are from Lady Ashburnham to Miss Humphry, the first dated 14th April, 1825 :—

" Sir William was too unwell to derive any Pleasure from the numerous entertainments of the Metropolis ; however he summoned sufficient Resolution to attend the Society of the Deaf & Dumb on Tuesday. The Duke of Gloucester was in the Chair, and he had the Honor of sitting on His Royal Highness' right Hand ; the speech he made on giving the Duke's Health has appeared in some of the papers, but he says it is given very incorrectly & much *distorted* by the Reporters. Sir Willm. was very glad to reach Home ; from being so much indisposed he found the Hotel so extremely uncomfortable that he thinks he never can *venture* to London again *alone*. . . . Sir Wm. thought my Brother [William Ozias Humphry, of the Council Office] looking very ill ; he mentioned that he had been appointed to Mr. Litchfield's situation, but from his Illness had been prevented taking Possession of his new office. He has notwithstanding the most serious Intentions of retiring, & thinks from his long services he shld obtain a Pension of a thousand a year. Sir William has at last succeeded in matching his Horse, and we are going this morning to take a drive to Hastings."

" Broomham, April 23rd, 1825.

My dear Fanny,

. . . I can scarcely confess the concern I feel for the lamented Illness of Mrs. Caroline Hardinge. By a kind letter I received from Maryanne yesterday we learnt that the last accounts were rather more favourable, altho' it is greatly to be apprehended from the nature of her disorder there is little hope of ultimate Recovery. Her loss to her Relations and Friends, by all of whom, from her many virtues and excellent qualities, she is justly held in such high estimation, must be most deeply regretted, and really to my dear Mother the deprivation she will experience in the loss of the kindest of Friends is almost irreparable. I feel much for our dear Friend Caroline, whose situation at this time must be painfully distressing . . .

Sir William is a good deal occupied at this time. This week Mr. Rately a surveyor at Hastings is coming to Broomham to inspect the house, & Sir Willm's operations here will be in some measure decided by his opinion. We have had several offers of cooks, but only one that is at all eligible. She stated that her native place was Romney, that she had lived as Cook in the Family of several Gentlemen whom she named for two and three years each, & that she perfectly understood the management of a Dairy, Poultry, & every branch of cooking. Her last place was at the *great Inn* at Sittingbourne, where she had lived two years and a half, & entertained no doubt of her mistress giving her a good character. She came to Broomham last Thursday & I promised to let her know our determination in a Week, as it is a Responsible situation. I shd. have preferred engaging a Person of whom we had some previous knowledge & who could have referred me to a Gentleman's Family for her Character, altho her appearance & manner were most respectable, & she mentioned having several Brothers in service, the eldest of whom has lived with Mr. Herries of Montreal for eight years as a Butler."

Mrs. Hardinge died on the 23rd. In addition to the difficulties brought about by the Rye Harbour Bill, the Ashburnhams found themselves at the same time troubled by one of an almost equally serious nature, the condition of Broomham. The house, in some parts at least, was many hundreds of years old, and had not been repaired when repairs were needed; this policy of procrastination nearly effected the ruin of the whole, but the letters explain everything.

“ My dear Fanny,

Altho’ in some measure prepared for the mournful event your letter of yesterday announced, yet the sad intelligence of the death of Mrs. Caroline Hardinge occasioned me a painful shock. The Loss of so excellent a Friend to my dear Mother and yourselves must long be felt. All her friends must be consoled by the Reflexion of so many virtues. She closed her earthly career with the Love and Respect of all around her, & is removed by a merciful Providence without Pain & Suffering to a happier state of existence. From the great affection our dr. Friend Caroline entertained for her Aunt & the alteration it makes in her situation, she must feel most acutely on this melancholy occasion. My Aunt’s Recovery is really wonderful; how did she support parting with you? I hope Maryanne will derive much pleasure from her intended visit to London; when the time is fix’d I shall be much obliged to her to give me a line, as I wish for an opportunity of conveying some little tokens of Remembrance to our young Friends [her brother’s children] in Charlotte Street.

I have deplorable Intelligence to communicate with Regard to the state of Broomham. After Mr. Rately had minutely examined and inspected the whole of the Building, he gave it as his decided opinion that the whole of the structure was in a totally irreparable state. From the circumstance of the Rain having penetrated the Roof, & so many different parts of the House, for such a number of years, the Surveyors are of opinion that the Principal Timbers which unite the House are so much decayed, that any money laid out on Repairs would be entirely useless, & likewise gave it as their opinion that the house would not much longer be a safe Habitation. From the high value Sir Willm. has always maintained for the Residence of his ancestors, this Intelligence was as you may imagine a great shock to him, but I am happy to say has supported it with great firmness of mind like a true Philosopher, & has been turning his attention to whether it will be more desirable to erect a new Mansion or to hire a Residence for a term of years within a moderate distance of his Estates; this morning he has been sketching a plan for a new house but what he will fix upon on more mature deliberation is quite uncertain & it would not be prudent to decide on Building till our affairs are finally settled. We took a drive to Hastings on Wednesday, when I had a second interview with the Servant I mentioned in my last letter. . . . To-morrow must be a melancholy day for Seal, I shall often think of you.”

Caroline Hardinge (junior) had for many years lived with her Aunts at the Grove; and on the death of the survivor of them, established her headquarters at Pembury Vicarage, with her sister Mrs. Stephen Woodgate. When the household was broken up, the cook (Anne Richardson) went to Broomham; a few particulars of her duties may prove interesting. She was to have no perquisites, but fixed wages, which in a former letter were estimated at about £18, which in those days must have been considered high; tea and sugar for the kitchen consumption were to be controlled by the cook. The scullery work was conducted by the dairy maid, who likewise managed the poultry under the superintendence of Mrs. Holmes. The Surveyors’ report of Broomham must have been exaggerated; but that genuine apprehension prevailed is shewn by Mrs. James West’s declining an invitation, owing to the supposed dangerous state of the house.

“Broomham, May 7th, 1826.

My dear Fanny,

I was very anxious to receive some Intelligence of our dear Friend Caroline Hardinge; she must deeply feel the separation from her beloved and excellent aunt,

but sincerely hope she will derive much comfort from a future Residence with her sister. Sir Willm. will be much obliged to you to inform him if the horses belonging to the late Mrs. Hardinge are to be disposed of by auction or private contract and whether they were found to answer her purpose ; if by *private contract*, what price would be expected. He wishes his name not to be mentioned, being uncertain whether it would *suit him* to make the Purchase at this time. I must request Maryanne to remember me very kindly to our Friends in Charlotte Street, and to give my nephews William & Richard five shillings each and my *little god-daughter* a Sovereign as a remembrance from me, the sovereign for Julia either to be laid out in some article or given in money as she deems most desirable. You will recollect five pounds was owing to me from my Uncle Stephen's Legacy, I believe I mentioned to you when at Tunbridge the manner in which I wished this sum to be disposed of. I imagine Maryanne will visit the Exhibition ; Sir Willm. is anxious to hear her Opinion of Sir Thomas Lawence's admired Picture of Miss Murray, of which *Fame* speaks so highly. A Family of Spanish *refugees* of Noble Family have been at Hastings for some time ; I understand they excel much at Embroidery, and have just completed a beautiful Reticule, which is to be played for by 24 members at ten shillings each ; at the solicitation of Miss Bird we have taken 2 tickets, it is to be decided next Friday or Saturday when we are Invited by Mrs. Bird to a *dejeuner à la Fourchette*. Sir Willm. has hitherto come to no decision with regard to his House, but thinks he should find the erecting a new House too considerable an undertaking. We are engaged on Wednesday to dine at Winchelsea with Capt. & Mrs. Wright."

Sir William's health suffered a great relapse soon afterwards, and occasioned a somewhat prolonged visit to Seal, to recuperate ; we owe to this circumstance a letter from John Ashburnham, who sent an ample account of how things were going on at Broomham in their absence. The next letter was three days after their return, when Sir William was decidedly better.

" Broomham, Sunday Afternoon, June 18th, 1826.

My dear Fanny,

Sir William much regrets there being a contested Election for this County. Sir Godfrey Webster at present heads Curteis *on the poll*, & he fears he shall be called on to exert himself for *his Friend*, which at Present his Health is unequal to. I have written to Mrs. James West to invite her Daughters to Broomham next week. We find Mr. Ray visited Hastings during our absence, therefore Sir Willm. must wait for his Opinion till he returns, which will probably be in about a fortnight. We were delighted with the Improvements that three weeks had made in the scenery here, the Geraniums in the Hall are in the most brilliant Bloom & exceed in beauty & variety any plants we saw at Wilderness. I do wish you could see them. Mrs. Holmes left Broomham Friday ; she was much affected at parting, which was to be expected, having had a comfortable Home here for nine & twenty years. Our new servant appears to suit us extremely well."

The next letter is edged with black in consequence of her brother's death. It seems that his widow was left without any pension, and applications through Lord Camden and Lord Harrowby were made to obtain one, which eventually proved successful.

" Broomham, July 21st, 1826.

My dear Fanny,

I hope you have heard favorable Intelligence from Town, we are very anxious to hear the result of the application to Ld. Harrowby. Our young visitors appear to enjoy themselves very much. I am agreeably surpriz'd in your Namesake, we find her extremely conformable to our wishes in all respects ; her manners require a little polishing, but I think her a sensible, clever Girl. Alicia has all the hilarity and good humour of youth & looks forward to entering society with the utmost pleasure. Major and Mrs. Mackenzie are now staying at Iden, we expect a morning visit from

them every day ; they are going shortly to make an Excursion to Paris & on their return have promised to pass a week at Broomham. A Ball is to take place at Battle next Friday at which Sir G. Prescott, Sir Charles Lamb, &c., are to act as Stewards. We met Sir G. & Lady Prescott at Hastings last week who expressed themselves anxious for us to attend, but Sir William declines attending all Public meetings on account of his Health. Mr. Richard Whitton died at Rye last week ; he had a most alarming brain Fever in the Spring from which he was supposed to be recovered & came to Rye during the Intense heat where he was seized with a Relapse & expired shortly afterwards. We went to Hastings yesterday & paid a visit to Dr. & Mrs. Knox ; the Doctor has been very little there, & was going to Town again in a day or two, but they have promised to take a family Dinner at Broomham before they leave this neighbourhood. I have sent you a Receipt for Ginger Beer, it is made with little trouble & I think my Mother & Maryanne would find it very refreshing in hot weather. It is Sir Willm's. favorite Beveridge. We are going to-day to take a Family Dinner with Mrs. J. Ashburnham."

The recipe is as follows :—

" GINGER BEER.

To two oz. of cream of tartar add 1 oz. of ginger bruised, 1 pd. of sugar, & one lemmon juice & peel, pour on them 4 quarts of boiling water. When at a proper heat add two spoonfuls of yeast. When cold, strain it, bottle it in half-pint stone Bottles & tye the corks down. It will be ready to drink in 12 hours."

This recipe is one of many scores, or hundreds, that have survived, many of them being old cooking recipes that were used at Mountfield.

" Broomham, August 19th, 1826.

My dear Fanny,

Mr. D. Ashburnham with his Friend Dr. Cope and James West came to us on Thursday for the purpose of being present at the Public Dinner which was given to Mr. Curteis by the Freeholders of Sussex. It took place yesterday at Northiam, about one hundred & fifty gentlemen & Freeholders dined together, & the day passed off extremely well. Sir Wm. was in the Chair, & I understand the conduct of the Chairman gave universal satisfaction ; the speeches he made after proposing the toasts were much applauded, & he was most cordially cheered by all the Party on leaving the Chair. Mrs. Mascall invited me to meet her brother's Family, Mrs. Hodges of Hemstead, & a party of Ladies who were to assemble to witness the scene, but the carriage being pre-engaged to the gentlemen I was obliged to decline. Mr. D. Ashburnham & his Friend Dr. Cope left us this Morning, Dr. Cope is a most agreeable & sensible Man. We have just had a visit from Mr. Mrs. & Miss Curteis & Mrs. & Miss Mascall."

The toasts on this occasion, in Sir Ws'. own handwriting, number no less than sixteen ; the three first are the usual loyal toasts, the fourth and fifth are " Edward Jeremiah Curtis Esqr., one of the Knights of the Shire for the County of Sussex," and " His worthy co-adjutor, Walter Burrell Esqr." Some of the other toasts could have been prepared by none other than Sir William, such as " The Liberty of the press, and may it never again be polluted by blasphemy or stained by sedition," and " may the distressed working manufacturers receive the best species of relief, that which is bestowed through the medium of employment."

The next week Mary Anne Humphry came to Broomham with her maid Charlotte, for the shower baths and treatment ; nearly half the succeeding letter is occupied with a discussion of her ailments.

" Broomham, August 25th, 1826.

My dear Fanny,

We are very anxious for the continuance of fine weather as Broomham is to be unroofed next week ; the summer has been so favorable that I regret it has not been done at an earlier period of the year, but hope the autumnal

rains will not set in till *after the equinox*. Sir Willm. is also at this time building a Kitchen Garden. We have for some time been engaged to dine with Mrs. Mascall; next Wednesday we are to sleep at Iden, & Dr. & Mrs. Lamb having only *one spare Bed* it will not be in our power to take Maryanne with us, but I shall give Charlotte a *strict charge* not to leave her during our absence. I was glad to hear so good an account of Mrs. Wm. Humphry, I think she must enjoy the Country this Hot Weather. Pray thank Richard for his Drawing & tell him I'm happy to find he is so good a Boy. James West left me on Thursday, he is to finish his visit next month. I had a letter yesterday from Alicia, & I have the satisfaction to say she gives a better account of my Aunt Rose."

" Broomham, Sepr. 6th, 1826.

My dear Mother,

Broomham is at present in a most uncomfortable state. The Repair of the Roof having commenced, the late rains have completely deluged all the Rooms in the Front of the House; the Drawing Room with the apartments over it & our Bed Room are entirely saturated with the wet, & I am doubtful whether we shall be able to inhabit them again during the winter. However, we trust if the Weather is tolerably favourable that the North side of the House will be secured by the end of next week. Sir Willm. & myself regret exceedingly not having it in our power to invite yourself & Fanny to Broomham this Autumn, but we have at present only one Bed Room that we can depend on as being secure from the Rain, & therefore most reluctantly must defer this Pleasure till some more propitious opportunity. We spent a most agreeable day at Mrs. Mascall's, Mr. & Mrs. Constable & their Daughter were of the Party; they made many kind enquiries after you. The long Drought which has prevailed during the summer has produced an Epidemic Fever in this Neighbourhood, which has proved very fatal at Winchelsea. Mrs. Hollingbery died of this disorder about ten days ago."

The next letter was written declining an invitation to Seal.

" Broomham, Sepr. 13th, 1826.

My dear Fanny,

The repairs of Broomham are this week going on most prosperously. Ten men are at present occupied on the Roof of the House, in addition to which Sir William is at this time Building a Wall-Garden, therefore you cannot be surprized that Sir Wm. should wish to remain at Home to superintend the Improvements, which we hope will be completed by the middle of next month, when we look forward with much pleasure to making my Mother a visit. Henry Woodgate [afterwards Canon Woodgate of Belbroughton] is staying at Hastings & performed part of the Duty there last Sunday. Sir Wm. would be exceedingly obliged to my Mother to lend him Pott's translation of Vergil & would esteem it a great Favor if you wd pack them carefully and send them to him as soon as convenient by one of the Hastings coaches. He has translated the first Book of Vergil, & wishes much to compare it with Pott's. The Theatre at Hastings is lately opened, Dowton has been performing there several nights. The Races are to take place to-morrow. The change in the Weather has operated favourably on the Fever which has been so prevalent in this part of the country. Mr. Stileman's Family have all been great sufferers from this complaint, but have I understand all left Winchelsea for change of air."

" Broomham, Octr. 18th, 1826.

My dear Fanny,

Last Monday we dined with Mrs. Camac & met Sir Charles Lamb & Lady Montgomery with a party of fourteen at Dinner. Mrs. Camac's Evening Routs commenced on this day, when she had a *large & most agreeable Assembly*. We have seen a good deal of our Friends at Tunbridge; Mr. & Mrs. Hardinge with Mrs. Callender passed a long Morning at Broomham to-day, they appear to enjoy the gayeties of Hastings extremely, they intend leaving Hastings next Monday in consequence of Mr. Pearson being about to quit the curacy of Tunbridge. The Play *we*

patronized passed off extremely well : there was a very good House, altho' the audience was not quite so *numerous* or *fashionable* as last year. Mr. & Mrs. West & Fanny Woodgate have been at Hastings for a few days, they very obligingly join'd our Party. Mr. Brisco & Mr. Musgrave sat in the same Box with them. Mr. West has engaged Poel's Lodgings for three months, the Ladies appear to anticipate the greatest pleasure from passing another Winter at Hastings. The Hastings Balls commenced yesterday sen' night ; the first was numerously attended, our Tunbridge Friends were there & appeared to derive much Pleasure from the *Evening Amusements*, but I shall defer giving you the Particulars of the Partys & News of this Neighbourhood till we meet. The walls of the Garden were completed yesterday & to-day we are going to a nursery garden near Rye in search of Fir Trees. James West left us on Saturday."

Early the following month the Ashburnhams paid their visit to Seal, and despatched the following letter on their return.

" Broomham, Decr. 3rd, 1826.

My dear Fanny,

We were much concerned to hear of my Aunt Rose's Indisposition. Sir William had a long letter from his Sister last Thursday in which she stated that Mr. Morris had attended my Aunt & that she was then better ; he considered her in a state of extreme Debility, tho' not in immediate Danger. I have the satisfaction to inform you that Mr. J. Ashburnham is recovering from a severe Illness ; Mr. Wynch performed the Service at Guestling to-day. Mr. & Mrs. West & Miss Woodgate took a Family Dinner here on Friday, they tell me they have had many Engagements. Hastings is at this time very full of good Company. Mrs. Camac has issued Cards of Invitation for a grand Ball on the 28th. Sir William has taken a Horse to-day *on Trial* for a week. Wednesday we are engaged to dine with Mr. & Mrs. Shadwell & we think of attending the Ball on Thursday Eveng. Yesterday we had a visit from the Bride & Bridegroom, Mr. & Mrs. H. Wynch, who have been returned to Pett about a week. Mrs. H. Wynch is by no means handsome, but very genteel & pleasing in her manners. We intend having a Dinner Party next week, in order to give them an early Invitation. Miss Carpenter called on Mrs. West a few days ago, when she took an opportunity of *imparting to her the numerous offers* by which she had been solicited, & that it was *in consequence of her own cruelty that she remained* Miss Carpenter. While on this subject I must mention that Dr. Burgess has a *Patient* in the person of poor Baron Wolfe, who has met with a *fall* returning from a Party. I hear the Ladies of Hastings are much *interested* in the Baron's Recovery & frequently pay him a Visit. Having been entirely at Home of late *my Work* has gone on well, but I shall be very thankful for *yours* and *Maryanne's* kind contributions. I have made my Morn'g gown which has been much admired.

P.S. Monday Morn'g. I have just received your kind Letter & we were most exceedingly grieved by the most distressing account it contained of the Health of my dr. Aunt Rose ; she has passed a long & valuable Life & her loss will be deeply felt whenever it pleases Providence to withdraw her from this state of existence. Pray remember us to her most affectionately. We shall wait with great anxiety for yr. next letter & intend putting off *all our Engagements*."

Rose Woodgate grew worse, and her life must have been despaired of at the date of the next letter, which contains many inquiries and reflections that we are compelled to omit.

" Broomham, Decr. 20th, 1826.

My dear Fanny,

Sir William dines at Hastings this Eveng with Mr. & Mrs. West, & I cannot employ the interval of his absence in a more satisfactory manner to myself than by addressing a letter to you. I hope poor little Richard is better. I was happy to find our nephew William is at Seal as he will be a companion to Maryanne in her Morning walks. I understand James is expected at Hastings to-day, I hope we shall

have the pleasure of seeing him at Broomham. Last Thursday we had a Party to dine with us, the Invitations having been sent before we received *your first Letter announcing* the lamentable Illness of my poor Aunt, & Sir William did not like to decline receiving his Friends, thinking it probable my Aunt might continue in her present state with little fluctuations for a considerable time. I understand Hastings is full of company & gayer than ever, *two or three* Parties taking place every Evening. We have had several Invitations but I have Declined going into Company at present. Mrs. Camac very obligingly invited you and Maryanne to her Xmas Ball which I consider a particular compliment knowing she has a *dread* of a *superfluity of Ladies*, & not having had it in our power to attend *one* of her Monday Evening Parties this year; to-morrow Eveng there is to be a Ball to which Mrs. J. Ashburnham is to accompany Mr. & Mrs. Richards. I have great pleasure in saying that Mr. J. Ashburnham is very much Recovered.

Wednesday Mornng. Mr. & Mrs. West's Dinner Party yesterday amounted to ten in number, & in the Eveng they had the addition of twenty more visitors. James breakfasted with us this Morning; he is I think grown stouter & looking remarkably well, he is gone to Winchelsea on a coursing Party with some gentlemen from Hastings. It would afford me the sincerest pleasure to hear that a Provision was made by Government for Mrs. Wm. Humphrey, I think Lord Camden's Letter gives it a favourable appearance."

Rose Woodgate died on January 1st, 1827, and the Ashburnhams attended the funeral. They started after an early dinner at Broomham, and arrived about eight o'clock in the evening. Owing to the death of the Duke of York, they had the utmost difficulty in procuring mourning in time for the occasion. They passed one night at Tonbridge and a week at Seal; but the return journey was not so fortunate, as one of the carriage horses was injured on the way to meet them, and they were obliged to leave it at the Inn and take post horses the whole way.

One of the letters written on Rose Woodgate's death was from her nephew, George William Ashburnham, to Miss Humphry, at Seal, which will serve as a specimen of his style.

" 3, Denmark Place [Hastings], Jany. 14th, 1827.

My dear Madam,

It was with no less Gratitude than Surprise that I read your obliging letter of the 11th inst—gratitude for my Dear Aunt's kindness to me through life, and surprise at this last unexpected act of kindness (her Legacy) of which I assure you I never had the most distant expectation or hope, but which I shall ever hold in respectful and Dutiful remembrance. I am now at a loss to proceed! but, before I stay my hand, which is unable to guide my pen to rehearse in adequate language the praise Due to our Departed Friend, I must take leave to say, I believe never mortal quitted this world with better hopes of an Immortal and an Eternal Felicity than she has.

I am extremely happy to hear my Aunt Humphry is so well, pray give my best respects to her and thank her for her kindness on this, as well as on all former Occasions. I also beg my best regards to yourself and Sister, and remain, Dear Madam, wishing you all every happiness here and hereafter, your most affectionate Cousin,
G. Wm. Ashburnham."

Denny Ashburnham, too, writes to Miss Humphry on the same occasion.

" Upper Marylebone Street, Portland place,
Janry. 15th, 1827.

My dear Madam,

Your kind favour was delivered immediately on my arrival in Town, but at too late an hour to admit of its being answered by return of post.

I feel very grateful to my late respected Aunt Rose for her kind and handsome remembrance, indeed I always associate that venerated name with dear Mountfield, with every thing that is amiable, with every thing that can render this life rationally

happy. Mrs. Ashburnham begs to unite with me her sincere thanks for your kind solicitude for the children whom I am most happy to be able to say are now perfectly recovered from their severe illness. Will you oblige me by mentioning to my Brother that I shall probably remain in Town till the 26th of next month? . . .”

The Revd. John Ashburnham (who on the same occasion writes in somewhat similar terms) suffered so much from bad health that he was compelled to undertake a journey to town to consult Dr. Latham, of Harley Street, and was accompanied by his wife and eldest boy; the other children were left with his brother at Broomham. They arrived about the 15th February, and at first stayed at Golden Cross (near Charing Cross), but afterwards took rooms at 13, Tichborne Street, Haymarket. Mrs. Ashburnham writes from Golden Cross on the 18th February to Lady Ashburnham with reference to a visit she had paid to her relatives in Marylebone Street :—

“ Mr. Denny Ashburnham I am sorry to say is suffering from a severe cold, and unluckily he had two Duties to perform to-day. Mary I regret to say was gone to School, therefore I was disappointed by not seeing her; the other little girl is entirely recovered from her late illness, they are returning to Ditchling in about ten days and their engagements prevent them from accepting Mrs. James West's invitation to spend a few days at Tunbridge next week. John Piers is quite reconciled to London, in fact he is much pleased with it, & delighted with this situation; he amuses himself by looking out of the window, and by writing Letters to yourself & his Sisters.”

A second letter from Mrs. Ashburnham gives a favourable account of the consultation, in which she adds :—

“We have got a very comfortable lodging consisting of a Drawing room & two Bed Rooms communicating with each other on the same floor, which we find extremely convenient. The situation is also good, it being just at the end of Quadrant Regent Street. John Piers can see the Horseguards go up & down the street from the Window which he is delighted with, indeed he is more pleased with the soldiers than any thing in London. Can you tell me if Miss Hollingbury is in Town & where she is? I should like to see her if she is in Town. Mr. Denny introduced Miss Mary to us yesterday; I was much pleased with her, she is a very nice pretty good-tempered Child. We are just going with Mr. Denny to the Bazaar in Baker Street where I hope to get my little Fanny her Doll & Cradle which I understand she is extremely anxious for. I should like to see the dear Children exceedingly, I beg you to kiss them for me & tell Fanny she may depend on having her Doll & Cradle. I always give you a specimen of my bad writing. I do not know how it is, but I am sure to write particularly ill whenever I have the pleasure of addressing you. With our united kind regards to Sir William & yourself I am, my Dear Lady Ashburnham, yours most affectionately,

March 5th, 1827.

Fanny Ashburnham.”

It was intended to place John Piers Ashburnham at a preparatory school in the neighbourhood of London early in the following spring. Mr. Ashburnham returned completely cured of his ague at the end of March.

To return however to the Broomham family,

“ Broomham, Feby. 12th, 1827.

My dear Fanny,

I saw Mrs. West at Hastings *one Morning* before her departure, who informed me that she had derived more benefit from following Mr. Scott's advice than that of any other medical man she had ever consulted. Sir William is very much obliged to my Mother for sending him “ Warburton's Essay on Pope ” the perusal of which affords him much interest. Mr. Cubit came to Broomham last Friday, when he inspected the house, &c.; he appeared fully to enter into Sir William's views on the subject of making every alteration in the most economical manner, & by no means Recommends extensive Repairs & considers that the *old Mansion* may be rendered a very comfort-

able Residence by some judicious Improvements. Mr. Cubit is to send Sir William the end of this week a contract for the proposed alterations, and should *this* prove as satisfactory as his visit, *the works* are to be begun in Town immediately & the workmen are to commence *their operations* here on the sixteenth of April. Whilst on this subject I must mention that the wainscoting in the Dining Room is to be repaired & to be painted of an Oak colour. We were extremely glad to hear of the safe confinement of Mrs. Francis Woodgate, the arrival of the little Girl must have been most welcome. The Death of Mrs. Johnes is greatly regretted at Hastings, we hear the House there is left to her nephew Coll. Johnes; I wish Anna Woodgate may have a Legacy, but we have not heard it mentioned in this Neighbourhood. Hastings *has thinned* a good deal in the last fortnight. We intend going to Mrs. Camac's this Evening, as it is conjectured her Parties for the season will close to-night. We hear a matrimonial Engagement has taken place between Mr. St. Quinten & Miss Georgiana Wellesley. Pray tell Anne Nouaille how much I admire the screens she so kindly presented me with when at Hastings. We dined at Mr. Stileman's last Wednesday & met a Party of sixteen composed chiefly of the Rye Neighbourhood, with the exception of Mr. Wynch & Mrs. H. Wynch.

Tuesday Morning. Mrs. Camac had rather a large & a very pleasant party last night. It passed off so agreeably that she talks of giving *two more* before she goes to Town. Ld. Graves & his three daughters were present. Mr. Camac is just recovered from a fit of the gout; they were particularly attentive & invited us to join some of their parties in Mansfield St. Mr. Musgrave Brisco was one of the Party last night. He was in good Spirits. If he has experienced *a second disappointment he bears it well*. A great change has taken place in the company at Hastings; with the exception of a few of the Residents, the Company last night was composed of nearly all strangers to us. Sir William is going to walk to Hastings. I must therefore conclude."

At the end of February Mr. Palmer was expected at Broomham, but as he did not arrive, it was supposed that he was able to prosecute Sir William's business in London. Lady Ashburnham writes to her sister with reference to Rose Woodgate's affairs:—

" Broomham, Feby. 27th, 1827.

If my Mother & yourselves have no Intention at any period of making the House at Tunbridge a Residence, perhaps it would be most advisable to sell it before it is Repaired. Sir William finds *his Bills* for the alterations he has already made at Broomham amount to more than he expected. Mr. Cubit's contract is *much* higher than he expected, & *this contract* is only for repairing the Front of the House, & from these estimates I do not think my Mother wd complete the enlarging & repairing the House at Tunbridge for less than a thousand Pounds. I am happy to find your new Neighbours at the Grove [Sir Alexander Crichton's family] are likely to prove so great an acquisition to your Society. We attended Mrs. Camac's Party last night which was very numerous & splendid. Sir Charles Lamb & Lady Montgomery, Ld. Grave's Family, most of the Residents & all the most select company now at Hastings were there. The mourning is left off for the late Duke of York, & the Room had a *most gay appearance*. I have purchased & made a black satten Dress, which *I sported* last Night. Mrs. Millward was present, attired in black Velvit & looking pretty well. It is the first Party she has joined since the Death of her Brother. Mr. Musgrave Brisco danced the whole Eveng & appeared in *excellent spirits*. Miss St. Quinten is returned to Hastings & looking *more* beautiful than last year. We left the Rooms at eleven o'clock when the Party were Dancing with much spirit. A *copy of verses* has lately made its appearance in Hastings, *the Author unknown*. Mrs. Camac as being the leading character of the Place is spoken of in terms of *high Flattery*, but so much *Irony* is expressed that it is *probably intended as a complete Satire on this Lady*. However she passes it off extremely well. The little eccentricities of the poor Miss Millwards are mentioned with much severity; altogether it

displays more ill-nature than wit. I intend copying them thinking they will amuse you & Maryanne. I am told another copy of verses taking in more *Characters & more severe* than the former are in circulation, but these I have not yet seen. I had a Letter from Caroline Hardinge on Friday to request me to execute some commissions for her at Hastings, she was expecting to receive a summons every day to the Christening of Sir Henry's little Girl. Have you heard any further intelligence respecting Mrs. W. Humphry's affairs? The papers have spoken of Ld. Harrowby as being likely to succeed Lord Liverpool. Should he be appointed *Premier*, I hope it may be a favorable circumstance."

The next letter mentions Rose Woodgate's best bed which was given by Mrs. Humphry to Lady Ashburnham.

"Broomham, Tuesday Evening [14th March, 1827].

My dear Fanny,

Maryanne's Letter accompanied with the Catalogue of the Furniture belonging to the late Sir Rd. Hardinge reached us last night. Sir Willm. considers it so good an opportunity for the purchase of Furniture that he has determined on attending the sale, & for this purpose he intends going to Sundridge to-morrow. It is his present intention to pass two Nights at Seal with my Mother & Maryanne & to return to Broomham Friday evening. You may possibly see him in the coach. I feel extremely obliged by my Dear Mother's kind offer of the Bed, & if you are sure it is not wanted at Seal, it would prove extremely acceptable at Broomham. The only conveyance here for large articles is Tylden Smith's Battle & Hastings Waggon, which passes thro' Tunbridge Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays. We think Ld. Harrowby's letter to Mrs. Wm. Humphry does great credit to his Lordship's feelings, most sincerely do I hope his Patronage may be attended with a favorable Decision. I am glad to hear your arrangements with Mr. Palmer are going on in so satisfactory a manner. I really think if an advantageous offer should occur, it would be desirable for my Mother to dispose of her Shares in the Moat Farm, which if sold would lessen her trouble & add to her Income. Do you not think it would be desirable for Mr. Palmer to ascertain at the Bank in what manner our late Father's Funded Property stands there, by which means my Mother will know what part of it is at her own disposal. I *just mention* this, thinking it might not occur to you. Last Friday we dined with Mr. & Mrs. Henry Wynch, & met a very agreeable Party. Mrs. H. Wynch is a most pleasing young Woman & appears to particular advantage at her own House. During Mr. Ashburnham's absence the duty has been remarkably well performed by Mr. Hodges, who excels much in his Profession. Do you expect a visit from Caroline Hardinge this Spring? By her desire I have ordered to be worked for her at Hastings an exceedingly handsome Dress with three flounces and a heading of work; the price is to be two Guineas. Poor Mrs. Denne is in the last stage of a Dropsy; she was so extremely ill, it was thought she would not have survived last week. To-day we hear she is a little better, but without a prospect of permanent amendment. We dine on Friday with Mr. & Mrs. G. Ash, I hope Sir Wm. will return soon enough to join the Party. I am much concerned to hear you are to lose your valuable & agreeable neighbours at Godden. Being nr eleven o'clock I must conclude."

Sir William's proceedings at the sale are best recounted in his own words. He was unable to obtain at the second day's sale any of the lots that he had decided upon, namely Lot 212, Lot 265, a magnificent eight-light Grecian lustre which hung in the drawing room and sold for 24 guineas, two guineas beyond his own bid; and Lot 266, a brilliant chimney glass, 54 inches by 29, which sold for 17 guineas, two guineas in excess of his bid.

"Seal, March 15th, 1827.

My dear Julia,

. . . . I bought Lot 108, consisting of a set of ten, and two elbow, mahogany chairs covered with scarlet morocco, for thirteen pounds ten Shillings. I likewise purchased Lot 113, an eight-light Grecian lustre (which hung in the dining parlour)

for ten pounds ten shillings. I do not know whether either you or I will be ultimately satisfied with my purchases, but the whole sum I have given for them is so moderate that I think I cannot have done essentially wrong. The dining room chairs have certainly been made many years, and the morocco is in some degree discoloured by time, but the sum I have given for them is so small that I am of opinion they cannot fail to be useful as supplementary chairs, even if we should determine that they are not good enough for best. The Grecian lustre (though very inferior to that which hangs in the Drawingroom) I consider extremely handsome, & I was tempted by the low price to purchase it under the idea of hanging it up in my dining room, which when it is painted of an oak colour cannot have too much light. . . . Soon after I had passed through Riverhead I was overtaken by Mr. Petley, who very obligingly conveyed me in his carriage to Sundridge; in consequence of this fortunate occurrence I arrived exactly at the very moment when the dining room chairs were put up for sale. . . . At Sundridge I met Mr. Francis Lipscombe and Mr. Manning of Combe-bank (e), with the latter of whom I recommenced my acquaintance. I enquired after Mrs. Lipscombe [formerly Sarah Woodgate of Riverhill], and was happy to find that she is quite well. I was glad also to learn that Mrs. Henry Woodgate of River-hill is considerably improved in health. . . .”

The letter concludes with the following sentence: “The pen I have had to write with is so bad, that I am afraid you will find my Letter hardly legible.” Every word, every letter, is formed with faultless accuracy, and the whole is a production of which any person of the present day might be supremely, and justifiably, proud. It is, however, a trifle inferior to some of Sir William’s writing, which in general is fully equal to copy hand. Here be it said that the knowledge gained by the present generation is too often acquired at the expense of the simpler but very necessary accomplishment of good writing; in nearly every instance, the writing shewn by the old letters is far, very far superior to that of the present day.

The bed arrived about the same time as the articles purchased at Sir Richard Hardinge’s sale.

“Broomham, Sunday Eveng.

My dear Fanny,

March 25th, 1827.

. . . I am truly rejoiced to find that Ld. Harrowby has succeeded in his endeavour to obtain a Pension for Mrs. Wm. Humphry, & altho’ the Provision is small [£200 a year] yet under the circumstances of the case it is an event that we must all feel very thankful for. . . . The articles from Sundridge arrived yesterday; the chairs are a handsome Form but not in a good state of Preservation. The lustre is not unpacked from having no place at present from which it can be suspended. I imagine you had a visit from Mr. Palmer last week as he would be returning from the Kentish Assizes about that time. Sir Wilm proposes recommencing his Repairs in about a Fortnight; I believe he will begin with the Poultry yard. The beginning of May he thinks of new roofing the remainder of the House, & on the 15th of May Mr. Cubit is to commence his operations on the Interior of the old Mansion. Sir Wm. indulged me this morning with a little of my favourite amusement; we have planted about a hundred Forest Trees & fifty evergreen shrubs. How truly unfortunate is the situation of poor Mrs. Hughes, the Living of Westfield has been for some time *sequestered* & Mr. Hughes is *out of sight*. The Parsonage has lately been taken possession of by Government Officers for arrears of Hop Duty. A Farmer in the Parish whose Family had formerly received many instances of kindness from Mrs. Hughes has given her a temporary asylum at his House. I *hear* Mr. Polhill has offered her a Home at Chipstead but there is great difficulty in knowing what to do with her Sons, who it is said have been much neglected & inherit all the bad propensities of their Father. We passed a very agreeable Eveng. at Mr. Ash’s & met Mr. and Mrs. Milward, the Goodenoughs, &c. . . .”

(e) Mr. William Manning, M.P., was the father of Cardinal Manning.

The next letter is written on two half sheets of paper most skilfully united with cotton, and describes the parties at the Cazalets', the Lamb's, and elsewhere :—

“ My dear Fanny,

This day being set apart for Sir William's *Audit*, and in consequence being confined to my own Room, I cannot employ a portion of the time in a more agreeable manner to myself than by addressing a Letter to you. . . . I hope my Mother will be fortunate in the disposal of her Property & we think the arrangements she is about making are very judicious; by this means we trust her Income may be increased. Mr. J. Ashburnham does not return home till after Easter. Mr. & Mrs. St. Albans are so much pleased with Hastings that they intend buying a House there and making it their future Residence. Mr. St. Albans has lately been appointed by the Bishop of Chichester to the Curacy of Westfield. . . . I shall be rejoiced when the Repairs are completed, having been in so unsettled a state of late. Tell my dear Mother we depend on her making us a visit towards the end of the Summer, by which time I hope the House will be comfortable indeed. I look forward with the greatest pleasure to seeing her & my Sisters again at Broomham. Mrs. Charles Milward either has or is about to leave Hastings; yrs was the first Intelligence of her good Fortune that had reached us. We are to dine with Mr. and Mrs. Lambe *en famille* on Monday to meet only Major and Mrs. Mackenzie. Sir William would be obliged if you would ask Mr. Nouaille if he can without difficulty obtain for him from the Manufacturers by the beginning of next month patterns of crimson taboret silk, not stuff, by which time we shall know the number of yards we shall require for Curtains; this Mr. Nouaille was kind enough to offer the last time we had the Pleasure of meeting him at Seal. I had a long letter from Alicia West a few days ago; she gives a good account of all her Family. The little Girls have just commenced Lessons in Dancing. We are in daily expectation of hearing the result of James' first college examinations. From the accounts that have reached us we hope it will be creditable to himself. We think of leaving off our mourning for our late Aunt on Easter Sunday; is this the time you have fixed on? On opening my writing Desk I found only two half sheets of Paper, & being excluded from the Drawing Room I was obliged to unite them which I hope you will excuse. . . .

Broomham, April 5th, 1827.”

The Ashburnhams were invited to spend some time with the Mackenzies in town in April. The next letter is not till November, and contains an account of Mr. Allnutt's Death. Lady A. adds: “ I sincerely congratulate my Mother & yourself on the Prospect of retaining as Neighbours our kind Relatives & Friends at Greatness. We attended Mrs. Camac's Party Monday Sennight. She had a brilliant assembly, Ld. Westmorland was there. He is staying at Hastings with an Invalid Daughter. I hear her Party last Monday was very numerous & amounted to more than eighty.”

On the 24th, Mrs. James West, William, and Alicia West came to stay at Broomham, and soon afterwards James West, who had just returned from Cambridge, arrived at Hastings.

“ Broomham, Decr. 9th, 1827.

My dear Fanny,

. . . On Wednesday we had a Dinner Party of twenty comprized of our Neighbours at Rye; Fanny Woodgate joined our Party & remained here till yesterday Morning. She is looking uncommonly well & appears *more than ever* to enjoy the amusements of Hastings. On Friday *for the sake of economy* we had another large Dinner Party, and as I know you like to hear every particular shall send a list of the Company, which consisted of the Archdeacon, Mrs. & Miss Goodenough, Mrs. Wynch, Mr. & Mrs. H. Wynch, the two Miss Birds, the two Mr. Brisco's, & Mr. Hodges. We were much disappointed in not seeing Mrs. Mascall who was summoned into Lincolnshire by Mr. Collet the day before, in consequence of the alarming illness of her sister. On

the day of our first party Mr. & Mrs. Rush dined & slept here ; I was really very happy to see our old friends at Broomham. Mrs. James West is looking very well, I am much concerned to see she does not derive more amusement from Society. We are to dine with Mr. & Mrs. Richards one day next week but I believe she will decline all Engagements at Hastings both for herself & Alicia during her stay. James joined his Grandfather & Mrs. West yesterday & I believe they are engaged to Parties every day for the next month. The Public Ball is fixed for the 25th, & Mrs. Camac's grand entertainment is to take place on the 27th Nov. ; poor Mr. Camac has been confined for the last month with an attack of gout. The last Public Ball was but thinly attended. Mr. Courthope's Family came from Wylie to be present. *The Flirtation* between Miss Courthope & a gentleman at Hastings appears on the decline. Mrs. John Ashburnham declines joining parties at present but is to pass a few days here this week to meet Mrs. James West. We hear the Chapel at Hastings is nearly finished. It is to be consecrated on the 18th & to be open for Public Worship on Xmas Day. It is said Miss Anson is engaged to Mr. Sharp ; James consoles himself with paying attention to Miss Golightly, a very pretty young woman from the neighbourhood of Pembridge, who is now at Hastings. Fanny Woodgate's cousin Mr. Hamilton has been for some time at Hastings ; he is in attendance on Mrs. & Miss Russel. You may recollect the latter is the Lady to whom he is engaged. Fanny has seen him frequently & he appears to wish to cultivate frequent Intercourse with her."

" Broomham, Decr. 28, 1827.

My dear Fanny,

. . . I received your kind letter on Wednesday & immediately signed the Legacy Discharge [for the legacy under Sir Richard Hardinge's will] & returned it to Capt. Hardinge under cover to Sir Henry by that night's post. Our Friends from Dryhill leave Broomham on Monday next. About a fortnight ago Alicia persuaded her Mama to allow her to attend with us one of Mrs. Camac's *at Homes*, with which she was much pleased. Mrs. Camac gave Mrs. J. West & her Daughter a most polite Invitation to attend her Ball last night ; Mrs. West I am happy to say found herself equal to the exertion & thither we all repaired about nine o'clock. Mrs. Camac kindly enquired after Maryanne & yourself & said she should have been most happy to see you also. From 150 to 200 Persons were assembled & I assure you it was a most agreeable Ball. Mrs. James West was highly entertained by the Variety of Characters that were present ; Alicia is much improved in dancing, *made out* extremely well, and obtained for a *first Ball* a good share of Partners. Fanny Woodgate was thought *the decided Belle* of the Evening, she is considered to be much improved both *in her Person and Manner*. Mrs. Camac was as usual all attention to her Guests. One great drawback to the Eveng occurred ; poor Mr. Camac was in Bed suffering from a severe attack of gout. Lord Graves lost a Daughter at Hastings a few days ago in consequence of which all his party together with Dr. Wellesley's Family were prevented attending. I am told Hastings is overflowing with visitors, but imagine Lady Londonderry would find no difficulty in obtaining Lodgings in a good situation for about eight guineas a week, as the company changes so continually. It afforded me real pleasure to hear so good an account of Ld. Camden's Family after their late severe affliction, & that yourself & Maryanne had passed so cheerful a day at Wilderness. We are to patronize a Play to-morrow Evening, we fix this day as being the only vacant night during the stay of our Tunbridge Friends. We have three engagements next week, on Wednesday to the Miss Milwards, Thursday Mrs. Stonestreet's & Friday Mrs. Goodenough's. Mr. Courthope's Family arrived at Hastings yesterday for the purpose of attending Mrs. Camac's Ball last night. Perhaps *perseverance* on their part *may obtain the Prize*. Our friend James is paying great attentions to Miss Golightly who has been at Hastings with her Mother for the last six weeks. I am glad to find Mr. Palliser has succeeded in effecting an exchange. Should you attend our Friend Caroline Hardinge's Wedding, pray offer my sincerest & kindest congratulations ; on her account I wish it was a more desirable connection."

The next letter followed in close succession ; Miss Humphry had been asked to recommend some lodgings to Lady Londonderry, and her sister mentions four that were vacant and suitable :

11, Wellington Square,	9 beds	Five guineas a week.
13, Pelham Crescent,	10 beds or more,	Eight guineas a week.
1, Breeds Place,	11 beds or more,	Twelve guineas a week.
Brunswick House Parade,		Nine guineas a week.

“ Tuesday Morning (1st Janry., 1828).

My dear Fanny,

Our friends at Dryhill left yesterday morning. I am concerned to say that James states in his Letter received this Morning that poor Fanny Woodgate is very unwell, having had continual fainting fits, but I am happy to add was somewhat better last night. I fear she has undergone *too much* exertion of late. The dramatic Performances on Saturday Evening passed off very well. Mr. & Mrs. West filled a Box with themselves & Friends, & James escorted a *large Party of young Ladies*. The House was well attended, many of the Principal visitors now at Hastings were present.”

A postscript mentions that Sir William had that morning received Intelligence of the death of his unfortunate cousin, Miss Ashburnham of Chichester.

Anne Frances Ashburnham was a niece of the Bishop of Chichester, being the daughter of the Rev. Charles Ashburnham, Precentor and Canon Residentiary of Chichester Cathedral. Miss Ashburnham had an only brother, Charles, and both were unfortunately weak in intellect. On the death of their mother, about 1822, a widow, they were left insufficiently provided for ; indeed, Miss Ashburnham had but a farm which brought in £40 a year, and her brother had perhaps still less. However, the family contributed liberally to their support. Sir William gave £500, John Ashburnham gave £10 a year, and the Pelhams, Lord Chichester and other relatives likewise assisted. They lived under the care of their cousin Mrs. Davison, wife of the Treasurer of Chichester Cathedral, who proved a most valuable friend at this juncture.

The next letter mentions the Winchelsea property which was so adversely affected by the Rye Harbour Bill, and which Sir William Ashburnham was very anxious to sell.

“ Broomham, Janry. 13th, 1828.

My dear Fanny,

. . . I very much regret you have so much trouble in the arrangements of our late Aunts' affairs, but where so many Interests are concerned fear it too often occurs. Mr. Palmer came to Hastings about a fortnight since, & with the mutual consent of Sir Wm. & Mr. J. Ashburnham cancelled the contract with Mr. Shadwell for the Winchelsea Estate. Mr. Shadwell for some time has not been in good Health & would not longer consent to so large a sum being tied up, & the Trustees considering it doubtful whether the contract could be enforced while the crown claims were pending thought it most advisable to relinquish it altogether. You may be assured this is a great disappointment to Sir Wm., having for nearly three years looked forward to the completion of this purchase, as the time for the final arrangement of his affairs. However we must hope for the best, & Mr. Palmer hears the Crown will certainly issue an Inquisition to try the question in the course of the ensuing Spring, after which a re-sale of the Estate will take place, but I fear under much less advantageous circumstances. We attended Mrs. Bird's Ball in Wellington Square last Wednesday Eveng. Most of the Principal Families & many of the visitors of the place were present, amounting to about a hundred. Lady Burton & Mr. H. Burton who are among the last arrivals at Hastings joined the Party. Pray tell Mrs. Nouaille that Anne appeared to enjoy herself exceedingly, was looking remarkably well & danced the whole Evening. Fanny Woodgate I am sorry to say appears in a delicate state of Health, & is advised to avoid much fatigue ; *between ourselves* I think she has

of late been a good deal harassed by *different suitors*. Mr. Wm. Palmer has been at Hastings twice lately, & made proposals of marriage to her. I understand he is coming down again on Saturday, but whether he is to be a *favoured lover* I am at a loss to conjecture. Mr. Musgrave Brisco has been paying her great attention but *he appears quite unsuccessful*. . . .

Mrs. West is to have a Party to-morrow Evening. A Public Ball is to take Place on Wednesday to which Sir Wm. at the particular request of Mrs. Camac again officiates as Steward, & we have an Invitation to dine with Mr. & Mrs. Bowen in Wellington Square on Saturday. I depend upon Anne Nouaille's making us a visit during her stay in this Neighbourhood. I hope yourself & Maryanne enjoyed Miss Burton's Party. . . .

The next letter contains a request by the Rev. John Ashburnham that Lady Ashburnham should stand god-mother to his second son, Anchitel :

"Ever since the birth of my little son I have been turning it in my thoughts whom I should among my friends ask to be Sponsors for him. Now there is no one who it would be more gratifying to me (& I may add to Mrs. Ashburnham) to stand Godmother to him than yourself. Your undertaking this office will therefore be esteemed by us as a particular obligation. At the same time I beg to say that if you have the least objection to comply with my request I shall not take your doing so at all amiss."

John Piers, the eldest son, died at an early age, so that Anchitel eventually succeeded to the baronetcy. The next letter, from Sir William, accompanied the "Keepsake" (a Literary Annual), his gift to Mary Anne Humphry, and contains much discerning literary and artistic criticism, which consideration of space compels us to exclude.

"Broomham, April 10th, 1828.

My dear Miss Mary Anne Humphry,

. . . . Sir Charles Hardinge was from home, but we saw at the Vicarage Capt. & Mrs. Hardinge, and also Lady Hardinge, who introduced to us a train of remarkably healthy looking children. Lady Hardinge was looking charmingly, and seemed delighted at seeing Julia. Her Ladyship told us, that Sir Charles had some thoughts of coming to Hastings in the course of next autumn : I hope he will carry his intentions into execution, which will be very agreeable to us. We had an uncommonly fine day for our journey, the roads were in excellent order, and we arrived at my old mansion about seven o'clock. I have this morning been to the Parsonage, but am sorry to say Mrs. Ashburnham is far from well. . . .

Sensible of the interest which the friendly circle at Seal feel for all my family, I have much pleasure in transmitting to you some very agreeable intelligence which I have just received from my brother Denny. I found here a letter from my brother Denny, in which he says that whilst he was in London he had an interview with the Lord Chancellor, who not only treated him in the kindest and most cordial manner, as an old friend, but from some observations which Lord Lyndhurst made, Denny thinks himself warranted in supposing that he may depend for certain on his Lordship's patronage. . . .

The next letter is also from Sir William to Mary Anne Humphry fixing the date of her visit to Broomham. He requests her to obtain a drawing which Mr. Engleheart had promised to do for him of the Knights Templars tombs at Winchelsea, and "a similar message to our young friend Mr. Peter Nouaille who has engaged to execute for me a Drawing representing some of the antiquities at Oxford and in its neighbourhood." These drawings, together with some verses upon Ozias Humphry, which Mrs. Humphry had, were destined for Sir William's magnificent album. It was very handsomely bound and finished ; but whether any of his albums remain with the family we do not know. He adds :—

"I understand that the Earl of Chichester is going to be married to a daughter

of the Earl of Cardigan ; perhaps you may have seen the Ladies Brudennel at Wilderness. As I hear Mr. William Thorpe is sent for to London to draw up the marriage articles, I imagine that the ceremony will shortly take place. Both Julia and I depend upon seeing her nephew William Humphry at Broomham in the course of his summer vacation ; perhaps he will accompany you here if his grandmother can spare him so soon. We expect our friends Mrs. and Miss Palmer to pay us a visit about the 8th of this month. We were concerned to hear of the death of Major Woodgate, though from the reports of his illness we had reason to anticipate such an event."

The Major was William Woodgate of Summerhill, who died at Dunkirk, surrounded by several of his family. From two letters of Mary Anne Humphry's, we learn that William Humphry returned to school no less pleased with his visit than were Mrs. and Miss Palmer, the former of whom reminded her occasionally, when in her most agreeable moods, of her aunt Sarah Woodgate. Their places were taken by William and John West, the latter "improved, and an intelligent and fine boy," the former "always an agreeable inmate." With reference to the approaching match between Musgrave Brisco and Fanny Woodgate, who were then at Tonbridge, Mary Anne Humphry observes :—

"The family at the Postern intended to go to Town on Monday, a preparatory measure to the approaching union. William tells us Mr. Brisco frequently goes to Dry Hill & that his Mother likes him very much. Mr. & Mrs. Shadwell came over to Broomham ten days ago to invite all the Party to dine with them on Tuesday last ; we sat down to Table to the number of ten, consisting of Miss Sayer, Mr. Dudley North, Mr. Warrenger, our own party & the host & hostess ; in the Evening there was the addition of Miss Milwards, Mr. & Mrs. Stonestreet, Dr. Burgess, &c. Miss Fanny [Millward] was quite brisk, & related to me their attending a sort of fête champêtre at Lady Hertford's, where the gardens were illuminated in a splendid manner & many of the royal family present. Miss Milward said the King was not pleased with Lady Londonderry's assumption of Royalty. On Thursday next Mr. Curteis gives a grand entertainment at Windmill Hill. The Company are invited at one o'clock, archery & Quadrilles are to constitute the Diversions of the Day ; Sir William & Julia have declined, as they cannot be accommodated with beds. Dr. & Mrs. Knox spent two hours here yesterday morning ; they admired the House & furniture exceedingly. Mrs. Knox said, Anna is now staying with her brother William [Woodgate] in London, where her marriage will shortly take place, & in consequence of her Father's recent demise as privately as possible. . . ."

Mr. Brisco's marriage was greatly delayed by the dissensions between William Woodgate and Mr. Whitton who were preparing the settlements ; the delay extended to weeks, and even to months, and during that time the Ashburnhams, being in constant expectation of a summons to the wedding, were unable either to accept or give invitations to their friends. Fanny Woodgate's cousin, the Hon. Gustavus Hamilton, was more fortunate, for we learn from Mary Anne Humphry's letter of 13th September, 1828, that

" . . . Mr. Hamilton was married on Tuesday last to Miss Russel, at the new Chapel at Hastings ; it was very private, & soon after the ceremony they departed in a carriage and four to London, where they will remain a short time previous to an excursion on the Continent " (f).

(f) Miss Russell was the daughter of Mr. Matthew Russell, M.P., of Brancepeth Castle, Durham. Brancepeth Castle was originally one of the ancient homes of the Nevilles. It was purchased in 1796 for £75,000 by Miss Russell's grandfather, whose son completely restored it, in excellent taste and without regard to expense. He married a sister of the Rt. Hon. Charles Tennyson D'Eyncourt, and had two children ; the son died in 1850 without issue, and the daughter married Mr. Hamilton, afterwards Lord Boyne, who succeeded in his wife's right to Brancepeth Castle and assumed by royal licence the name and arms of Russell in addition to those of Hamilton. Their grandson is the present Lord Boyne, in the Peerage of Ireland, and Baron Brancepeth in that of the United Kingdom.

The letter continues :

“ On the same day was likewise married at Battle Miss Barton to Lord Clarina. Fame reports that this Lady has a large fortune. Mr. Palmer left Broomham on Saturday morning, he said my Mother's wishes should certainly be attended to ; his family are now at Brighton where they propose remaining six weeks. Sir William & Julia were invited yesterday to dine at Winchelsea, to meet the Bishop of Calcutta & his Lady. In the morning however Mr. W. Lipscomb called with his Brother the Bishop to say the party was postponed in consequence of the indisposition of Mrs. Lipscomb. They have been making a tour round the coast, and from too much exertion, or the heat of the weather, she found herself very unwell, & *perfect quiet was recommended for the next fortnight*. We are going to Hastings this morning ; the place is overflowing with company & looking cheerful & gay. A visit to Miss Milward will probably put us in possession of the particulars of the late weddings. On Monday last we called upon Mrs. Mascal ; it was a lovely morning & I enjoy'd the drive extremely. Miss Mascal (still in delicate health) was gone with Mr. Herbert Curteis to pass a fortnight at Eastbourne. Mrs. Mascal walked with us through her Gardens & pleasure Grounds, which are extensive, & I saw the Noisette Rose, of a gigantic height, still flowering most luxuriantly. . . . ”

A visit of Frances Humphry to Broomham succeeded that of her sister, and was the cause of several interesting letters.

“ Broomham, Tuesday Morning, (18th Novr., 1828).

My dear Mother,

In the expectation of seeing our friend Julius Nouaille, I shall prepare an Epistle for his conveyance to you. I must in the first place inform you of my *safe arrival* here on Friday evening about six o'clock, the Coach by which I travelled went by Tonbridge Wells, Tycehurst, & Wadhurst, which detained us a little longer on the road, but gave me an opportunity of seeing a new & pretty part of the country. Sir William's carriage was waiting my arrival at the Hare & Hounds, & on reaching Broomham a cordial reception together with a cheerful Fire blazing in my bedroom soon made me very comfortable after a wet journey. . . . Saturday morning I accompanied Sir William & Julia to Hastings, when we called on Miss Crichton, but unfortunately did not see her, as she was taking an early dinner with her friend. We afterwards visited Miss Mascal, & Mrs. & Miss Golightly—the former is staying at Hastings with a sick Aunt, & expecting to be joined by her Mother in about a month. On leaving Hastings we met Mr. & Mrs. Musgrave Brisco entering the town. Mr. Brisco was on the *look out*, anxiously awaiting their arrival which was announced by a merry peal from the Bells of St. Clements Church. In consequence of the indisposition of Miss Luxford, herself & her sister Elizabeth had been passing a fortnight with Miss Browning for the benefit of a little warm bathing & left Hastings a week ago much improved in Health.

Julia has lately had all her Geese stoln, & Saturday night three Hen-roosts in the Parish (including Mr. John Ashburnham's) shared the same fate. It is intended to call a meeting of the parishioners to propose a nightly watch during the winter, in the hope of putting a stop to these daring Depredators. Tell Maryanne *her friend* Chanticleer with his *melodious strains* arouses me by times every morning. Julia has written to invite Miss Crichton to pass a few days here next week. . . . I have not yet been able to see my little Godson, but intend visiting the Parsonage the first disengaged morning. Sir Wm. & Julia have declined several parties next week in the expectation of Miss Crichton being here ; the only engagements at present existing are a dinner here on Wednesday, & one at Sir Wathen Waller's on Friday week. We are going this morning to call on the Bride & Bridegroom, & hope to find Julius Nouaille here on the return. . . . ”

“ Broomham, Novr. 24th, 1828.

My dear Maryanne,

As the relation of the proceedings at Broomham proves so acceptable to our friends at Seal, I certainly will not fail to send you a *circumstantial detail* of them, but in the first place must thank you for the kind letter received on Friday last, & assure you it affords us no less satisfaction to hear a good account of my dear Mother & yourself. Julia & indeed all the *Trio* were much disappointed that the unexpected departure of Miss Crichton prevented her coming to Broomham, having indulged many pleasing anticipations from the prospect of her Society. I will now proceed with my *detail in due order*. I know you will expect a particular account of Mr. Kay's entertainment; Mrs. Winch, Mr. Henry & Mr. Peter Winch, Mrs. & Miss Randal (ladies residing in Wellington Square) & ourselves partook a repast consisting of every delicacy of the season, elegantly served, with all the *refinement Foreign skill could devise*, the choicest Wines, & a Desert to which the confectionery of Paris & Brussels were added; & to *complete all* rose Water was dispensed after dinner for the refreshment of the party. Mr. Kay & his Sisters were most attentive to their Guests; *barring a small tincture of affectation*, he appears an intelligent pleasant man; his Sisters I like very much, their Cottage is quite a Bijou, I am to visit them some morning to take a more *accurate survey* of their cabinet of Foreign Curiosities. Of the Ball you must not expect so animated & vivid a description as I probably should have given ten years ago; it was nevertheless very pleasant. A hundred & forty eight persons were present, & among several *stars* of less magnitude Mrs. Brisco *shone* pre-eminent. Sir Wm. continues to act as a Steward, in which office he is considered so efficient, that his name was included in the list without ascertaining *his own* wishes on the subject. The mourning here is not yet laid aside, altho' at the Ball & most of the festive meetings many of the ladies appear in white Dresses.

Much to the disappointment of Sir Wm. his Album is not yet arrived from Town; the Binder certainly does not enter into his feelings, or he would not have been so tardy in executing his Order. The Pictures [the family portraits, referred to in Mary Anne Humphry's letter] are remarkably well cleaned, & appear to great advantage ranged in due order round the dining-room. The Party here on Saturday passed most agreeably, 22 at dinner, with the addition of Miss Sayer, a friend, and two Neices (who volunteered their company) in the evening; the dinner was very handsome & well served, & altho' so late in the year, the *Floral* display was very ornamental to the Table. Mr. Henry Winch the preceding day sent a nosegay containing *more than a hundred* different flowers, gathered from the owner's Garden, & many of them beautiful of their kind. In the eveng Sir Wm. proposed a pool of commerce for the benefit of the Infant School, in which many of the party readily joined, the Gentlemen putting in *Double Stakes*; it was at last contested by Julia & myself, the *fickle goddess* however favoured her with success, & the sum of thirty shillings was consigned to the care of Miss Bird in aid of the funds of the institution. The Bazaar is to be opened at the Assembly room the 23rd & 24th of Decr. Ly Ashburnham, Mrs. Camac, Mrs. Brisco & Mrs. Millward have been solicited to act as Patronesses, & every Patroness is to have *two young Ladies* in waiting upon her. The design is certainly very laudable, but if it could be accomplished with less ceremony & display, it might perhaps be still better. My Godson is really a *magnificent* Child, & remarkably *gracious & condescending* to his *God-mamma*; the little Girls are beautiful Children, but at present I cannot say much in favour of their agreeable qualities. At the Ball Miss Millward danced the *whole evening* with some of the smartest partners in the room including yr friend Mr. Dudley North. Mr. & Mrs. West appear most happy to rejoin their Neice; Mrs. West is to bring Mrs. Brisco to pass a Morning here some day this week. Mrs. Brisco says the reception & kindness she has received from all Mr. Brisco's family cannot be exceeded. One of the Carriage horses has been so much *indisposed* that the Farrier recommends perfect rest for a week, *possibly* this short intermission may be desirable for the Inmates

of the *House* as well as the *Stable*. Invitations have been received (in which I am included) to the following dinners: Tuesday the 2nd of Decr Archdeacon Goodenough's, Friday the 5th the Miss Millwards', & the 10th (my dear Mother's Birthday) to Mr. Stonestreet's. I never remember such a month of November, the walk to Church yesterday morning was quite delightful. Do not think that amidst all the gaiety by which I am surrounded that I am unmindful of my friends at home, & whenever you feel disposed for writing, a letter will be most acceptable to me. With our united best love to my Mother & yourself, ever my dear Maryanne yr affecte sister
Frances Humphry.

A list of the party at Broomham on Saturday last: Mr. Brisco, Mr. & Mrs. M. Brisco, Mr. & Mrs. Camac, the Archdeacon, Mrs. & Miss Goodenough, Mr. & Mrs. West, Mrs. Mr. Henry & Mr. Peter Winch, the Miss Millwards, 2 Miss Birds, Mrs. Ashburnham & Mr. Palmer."

A postscript added by Lady Ashburnham:—" . . . Have you heard that Sir Anthony Hart has sold Mabledon to Mr. Deacon, a Banker in London? Sir William has nearly completed his Orchard Plantation, which we hope will prove a great addition to the garden at Broomham. Mrs. M. Brisco is looking beautiful; from a conversation I had with Mr. Musgrave the day they dined here, I think they will ultimately fix on a Residence in the Country & we hope not far from us. . . ."

The Brisco's are henceforth mentioned so frequently and at such length that, in view of the fact that many of the extracts are arranged under the heading of BRISCO (Chapter XVI), it is impossible to transcribe at length every reference to them. The narrative is resumed by Miss Humphry on the 2nd December, 1828.

" . . . The party here on Wednesday last consisted of Sir Charles Lamb, Ly. Montgomery, Ld. Eglinton, Ly. Turnour & her eldest son, Sir Wathen Waller, 2 Mr. Norths, Mr. & Mrs. Stonestreet, Mrs. & Miss Golightly, Miss Lucas, & Mr. Warrenger; several of the *residents* being engaged the number was made up by including a few *visitors*. The dinner did infinite credit to the arrangement & good taste of the Mistress as well as the skill of the Cook. The Beauport family made themselves very agreeable & admired the fitting up of the House exceedingly. Ly. Turnour appears to more advantage unaccompanied by her poor unfortunate lord; she was very handsomely attired & took an opportunity of informing Julia that she made a point of *waiting on her* in a dress she had to attend his Majesty's drawing room in the Spring. There was a Concert & Ball at Hastings the same evening, which several of the party attended after leaving Broomham. It is a relief to Julia that these parties are over, there being a degree of anxiety attending *home-meetings* that is not experienced elsewhere.

The party at Sir Wathen Waller's on Wednesday last was *very select*, 16 at dinner, & the entertainment altogether the most splendid I have witnessed; the display of Plate quite magnificent; a variety of the choicest wines, & a dessert consisting of the rarest Fruits & preserves; in the latter four richly gilt Cornucopia's were introduced, which produced a very ornamental effect to the table. Sir Wathen abounds in anecdote, which with a little degree of *pomposity* renders his conversation highly amusing. The Baroness How presided at the head of the table, & was very attentive to her guests; but is so extremely deaf that she can derive little pleasure from society, & most of the party appeared reluctant to hear the sound of *their voice through the medium* of her ladyship's Trumpet. Sir William's Album arrived yesterday, & is a most splendid work; he has presented it to Julia and I am sure she will duly value so gratifying a proof of affection & genius; I promise myself a rich treat, in being allowed to peruse the contents of this interesting volume. . . . The Carriage Horse is quite recovered, We went to Hastings yesterday to call on Mr. & Mrs. West, & found them both quite well. We also made Miss Golightly a visit, who favoured us with the sight of some of her paintings, one of which (a miniature of Mary Queen of

Scotts) Sir Wm. much admired, & she has promised him a copy for his Album; she is a pretty lively girl, with most fascinating manners; Mr. Dudley North appears by no means *insensible* to her charms. I find the parties very pleasant now I am become more acquainted with the *members* of which they are composed. Miss Goodenough I like much, & Miss Lucas is a very pleasant well informed young Woman. The *Invitations multiply*, to Balls, as well as dinners; Sir Wm. & Julia prudently decline all evening engagements (with the exception of Mrs. Camac's Ball fixed for the 26th Inst.) during the Winter. Even Mrs. Brisco *begins* to find the parties too frequent, & says she quite enjoys a quiet evening at home. Sir William has sent to a *certain Mr. Job Elliot, famed for his Skill* in draining land, & hopes to conclude a treaty with him, for performing this *salutary operation* on his Park. . . ."

The Baroness Howe was the eldest daughter of the celebrated Lord Howe, and married secondly in 1812 Sir Jonathan Wathen Waller. A reflection of the life at Broomham is afforded by a long letter of this date from Denny Ashburnham, from which we have made a few extracts:—

" 27, Upper Marylebone Street, Portland Place,
Decr. 5th, 1828.

Dear Brother,

. . . I was happy to find that Lady Ashburnham & yourself have been passing your time so agreeably and sociably. I pictured to myself the happiness I have so often witnessed in the festive Parties at Broomham; such happiness is natural where good sense, good humour & good taste prevail in the Host & Hostess, the Lords & Governors of the feast, for surely *there* folly herself, fearing detection, will mantle in her best attire & muffle all her bells.

It gave me sincere pleasure to hear that Fanny Woodgate had changed her name so much to the satisfaction of her Relatives & with that promise of felicity alluded to in your very effective lines written & spoken on the occasion, & which must have contributed largely to the hilarity of the marriage feast, neither would the loyal sentiments bourn on the Breezes of the blustering *West* lose their effect. I am glad you have planted an orchard; it is an appendage much wanted to your old mansion. I can see you in imagination walking your rounds & watching the progress of your plants, which is indeed a matter of great interest, rising in proportion to our knowledge of the vegetable world. Believe me, the pleasure I derive from my very limited information in Botany is indescribable. Hamlet calls this world "an unweeded garden". . . . My dear Mrs. Mackenzie, Mrs. Lewes & children, with Miss Capley spent a long morning with us at Ditchling, and were much pleased with the improved appearance of the Vicarage, and Mrs. M. ran away with your letter containing the nuptial lines & we parted not a little pleased with our visitors. Your favour was forwarded to me from Ditchling last Monday, which I should have answered sooner had I not waited to see my little Nephew whom I saw yesterday at Mr. Jephson's; he was looking remarkably well, quite a picture, & very anxious for Saturday week, which he expects will set him at rural liberty.

Here, now, is drawing to a close perhaps the happiest of the many happy years of my life. I cannot say with Octavian "Where are the look'd-for Years, gaily bedecked with fancy's imagery, when boyhood smiled upon thy lusty youth & all was sunshine!"—for with me, such times, not only have been, but are still existing, rolling on in bright or even brighter colouring arrayed. . . ."

The style of this writer is not dissimilar to that of his brothers George and Sir William, and has about it a certain ring that is now seldom met with. It is employed, with much effect, in the next letter, which contains a criticism of the Keepsake for 1828, Sir William's yearly Christmas present to Mary Anne Humphry. His remarks will not admit of transcription at full length, but an extract will suffice:—
". . . The poetry, with the exception of two or three small pieces, is very

indifferent. The following epigrammatic couplet is decidedly the best amongst the verses, and seems like a satire, a severe satire on the rest.

“Swans sing before they die—’twere no bad thing
“Did certain persons die before they sing.”

The prose department is much better. . . . My poetical album has at last been returned from the hands of the bookbinder. It is magnificently bound, and has been much approved of by my friends. I flatter myself that it is quite a unique compilation. Many Kentish families are expected at Hastings, amongst the rest the Hodges of Hempsted, the Morlands of Lamberhurst, and the Moneypennys of Hadlow; Mr. Henry Hodges and his family, and Sir John and Lady Smith (who is sister to Mrs. Morland) are arrived there already. . . .”

This letter is succeeded by one containing a minute description of the Bazaar. Sir William had expressed his anxiety to secure a beautiful chess table, valued at fifteen pounds, painted by Miss Bryan, a friend of the Miss Birds. The border was of “a peculiarly elegant arabesque pattern most admirably executed in imitation of ebony and ivory; the squares are black and white alternately, each white square being decorated with a different Landscape, chiefly views on the Rhine taken on the spot by the young Lady herself.” This masterpiece was played for by thirty shareholders of ten shillings each, and fell to the lot of Mrs. Russell, whose daughter had lately married Mr. Hamilton; doubtless Lord Boyne’s family now possesses it.

The Bazaar realized on the two days sale £260, when a great many articles were yet unsold. Amongst other things Sir William purchased for one pound a well executed watercolour painting of ships encountering a strong gale at sea by a Miss Hutton, a pupil of Copley Fielding; Dr. Batty (a good judge of drawings) declared that it did great credit to her master. Sir William declares that, “like all the European markets, the room was overstocked with commodities, and the goods to be sold very far exceeded the number of purchasers.” After exceedingly minute details of the Bazaar, he concludes:—

“We dined and slept on Monday at Mr. Camac’s. At dinner we met Sir Wathen Waller, Mr. Archdeacon Mrs. & Miss Goodenough, Mr. & Mrs. Milward, Mr. & Mrs. Stonestreet, Mr. & Mrs. West, Mr. Brisco, Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave Brisco, and Mr. Crosby; in the evening was a large assemblage comprising almost the whole of our acquaintance resident at Hastings. On Tuesday we dined with Mr. and Mrs. West and the Briscos, and spent a very pleasant evening. I am sorry to say that the depredations in this parish still continue. The Larder of Guestling workhouse was broken open last night & robbed of the provisions it contained.”

Further particulars of the Bazaar are supplied by Lady Ashburnham, who, as one of the lady Patronesses, received several acknowledgments as a reward for her exertions.

“Broomham, Thursday Eveng., Janry. 1st, 1829.

My dear Fanny,

. . . . I was much obliged to Mrs. West & Mrs. Camac for their kind accommodation, finding standing [at the Bazaar] so many Hours very fatigueing. Mrs. Camac’s Ball on Friday last proved extremely agreeable; about an Hundred & sixty persons were present consisting of most of the visitors now at Hastings, & all the Principal Families in this part of Sussex, with the exception of Lady Montgomery, who was prevented by Indisposition from attending. Ld. Eglinton was there, & danced the whole Eveng. It was the general observation that the Room did not boast so large a display of Beauty as Hastings usually presents. The Miss Lucas’, Miss Golightly & Miss Dugdel were the most admired amongst the young Ladies. Mrs. Musgrave Brisco was the decided *Star of the Evening*; she was in her *very best looks*, indeed I do not remember ever to have seen her to so much advantage, elegantly attired in a white (illegible) over white satten, with a most becoming pink Hat from *Madame Geransdot*, for the occasion. . . . Mr. Hodges’ Family from Hemsted

who arrived at Hastings the morning of the Ball were present, & also Sir John Smith's Family. Mr. & Mrs. Morland have taken a House, & I am told Dr. Wellesley has arrived in Wellington Square this week. Mr. J. Ashburnham attended the Ball and appeared much amused by the gayety & to him novelty of the scene. Mrs. A. enjoyed herself excessively, & looked very well. . . . (Friday Morning). The Ball last night proved the best of the season, more than a hundred & fifty persons being present. Lady Montgomery & a party from Beauport attended. I hope Anne Nouaille will arrive at Hastings before the Xmas festivities have ceased. Mr. Burton has finished & furnished a House in the new Town and is residing there with his Family. Many houses are to be completed next spring, & he has it in contemplation to build a Church."

The new town was St. Leonards. It was planned and built by Decimus Burton, one of the Burtons of Mabledon in Tonbridge, to whose family a large part of it now belongs. In March, 1829, Sir William paid a visit to London, partly on business and partly in order to see his dentist. He says:

"Dr. Birch and his daughter (who were taken up at Battle) were two of my companions in the stage-coach, and I kept up so lively so interesting, and so incessant a conversation with the Dean, as to make the time pass very quickly, very smoothly and very pleasantly. The Dean told me some very curious anecdotes of Mr. Barton of Battle Abbey, relating to the period when he resided in France during the revolution but it would take up too much of my space to enter into detail at present. Mr. Wetherall of Pashley came up to town by the same coach as I did, but he was an outside passenger. . . . After I left Mr. Bell [the dentist], I went to attend a meeting of the Horticultural Society, at their house in Regent Street, where I was dubbed a Fellow of that Society in due form, and congratulated by the president on the occasion. I did not expect to see any of my acquaintance there, but I did meet Mr. Wilson of Hastings and the Count de Vaunde. I did not stay long at the meeting because I had so many things to do; but I am now entitled to attend whenever I think proper. I consider the Society as an object of great national importance. . . "

He dined in Upper Woburn Place and afterwards had a long discussion with Mr. Palmer on the state of his pecuniary affairs; attended Drury Lane Theatre, and was a critical spectator of "Peter the Great" and "Caswallon"; ordered a large quantity of groceries to be sent by sea to Hastings; visited the National Gallery and the British Institution; and indulged in the varied amusements of the metropolis, from which he returned at the end of the week. In June Mrs. Henry Buttanshaw died. She was the second daughter of W. F. Woodgate, of Summerhill.

"Broomham, 2nd July, 1829.

My dear Fanny,

. . . . We were much concerned to hear the death of poor Mrs. Henry Buttanshaw; no particulars have yet reached us, but we understand from James West that this melancholy event took place last week in consequence of her confinement. I stated in my last letter that Sir Wm. had invited the Bishop of Chichester to Broomham, & on Tuesday we were honored by a visit from his Lordship accompanied by his son in law Mr. Baker. We invited a party of eighteen to meet him at Dinner. Unluckily many of the Ladies disappointed us on the Day; however we assembled fourteen at Dinner. Mr. & Mrs. Milward, Mrs. G. Wynch, Miss Sayer, with six clergymen completed that number. The Bishop is a most agreeable Man, extremely polite, and expressed himself much gratified by the attentions he received here. He gave Sir Wm. & myself a pressing Invitation to visit himself & Mrs. C— at the Palace at Chichester. He quitted Broomham after Breakfast yesterday morning to hold a confirmation at the Church of Rye. Mrs. James [West] and Alicia came to Winchelsea last Saturday se'nnight; we have frequently seen them & she appears much pleased with *her son's abode and situation*. She did not feel equal to join our party on Tuesday, consequently we were disappointed of seeing Alicia, but they both

accompanied us to the Confirmation at Rye, after which we partook of a cold collation at Mrs. Watson's where we met a large party. They come to stay here next Monday and before their return they are to be joined by Mr. James West & Frederick. Mr. J. Dugdale passed the greater part of last week here; on the day of his arrival our Friends at Winchelsea were dining with us. He had not met Mrs. James West before for more than twenty years but in consequence of James being his curate she behaved to him with much civility, and the next day James gave *us all* a Hospitable Dinner at Winchelsea. Mr. J. Dugdale is about to exchange the two Livings he now holds for a valuable one in Dorsetshire in the gift of the Duke of Rutland. Mr. Mortimer the present incumbent has an only daughter who is married to a nephew of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, & settled in East Kent, & his object in effecting the exchange is to reside near her. James will retain the Curacy of Winchelsea. Miss Dugdel is not in good health, never having recovered the excitement she experienced at the termination of her last visit at Hastings. Ld. Harris by his will kindly remembered her with a Legacy of five hundred pounds. Julius Nouaille came here on Monday, & we hope he will continue with us till Saturday Morning. We regret he does not find his situation at Pevensey more agreeable. . . . Mr. G. Ashburnham is just arrived to dine with us. . . ."

About this time an application was made on behalf of Sir William and many of the Freeholders, to Mr. Herbert Curteis to offer himself as candidate for the county whenever his father, Mr. Edward Jeremiah Curteis, M.P. for Sussex, should find the duties of a Legislator too laborious. It was the occasion of a very handsome letter to Mr. E. J. Curteis, in which he says :

" . . . I feel confident that he will tread in the steps of his father. I feel confident that the same loyalty to our most gracious Sovereign, and the same stedfast attachment and adherence to our excellent constitution which has characterized your parliamentary career will also distinguish his conduct. Your perfect independence, your unwearied, your indefatigable exertions in favour of agriculture, and your constant, your exemplary attentions to the business of the County, will prove an admirable pattern for his guidance. He could not possibly imitate a better model. The principles and practice which we have admired in the father I doubt not will be found in the son. That you may long enjoy health and happiness, and that you may for many many years continue to represent a county which you have so faithfully served, and which is so strongly attached to you by the deepest feelings of approbation, gratitude, & esteem, is the earnest wish of your sincere friend and faithful humble servant.

William Ashburnham."

The next letter represents Mr. Curteis as being in a dangerous state of health; and refers to the newly-married Mrs. James John West, formerly Miss Molyneux.

" 28th July, 1829.

My dear Fanny,

. . . The Bride & Bridegroom dined with us on Wednesday, on their return from Hastings. We like our new Relative very much; she appears to be a young woman of considerable mental attainment. and *without being handsome*, of genteel commanding appearance, & with the advantage of very pleasing manners, but I am sorry to add she still appears in a delicate state of health. We are to have a Dinner party at Broomham on Friday when they pass a few days with us. They have received the kindest letters of congratulations from the Postern, & she appears very desirous of cultivating the Regard and good opinion of all his Family.

Mr. & Mrs. Musgrave Brisco are settled for six months in a most commodious Residence in York Buildings. Mrs. Musgrave is looking charmingly, in much improved Health & excellent Spirits, & Mr. & Mrs. James John West are to pass the early part of this week with them, to attend the Races on Tuesday & be present at the Ball the following Eveng. Mrs. Mackenzie & myself are to join a Ladies party at

Mrs. Brisco's on Tuesday, after the sports of the Morning are concluded, & in the Evening we adjourn to the Heath out of compliment to *the steward who calls the Play*. We dined yesterday at Fairlight Place with Mr. Planta & passed a most agreeable Eveng. We sat down ten to dinner, Sir Howard & Lady Elphinstone with a Party staying in the House completed the number. Sir William was charmed by Mrs. Vom's performance on the Piano, but I understand she is considered to be one of the finest Players in England. The marriage of Mr. Elphinstone & Miss Curteis was to have taken place last Wednesday but was obliged to be postponed in consequence of the alarming state of Mr. Curteis' health, but as he is now better it is hoped the ceremony need not long be Delayed. Their intended union gives the utmost satisfaction to the Families on each side. There appears to be quite a Matrimonial mania in this neighbourhood. Mr. Oriel's marriage with Miss Georgina Morris takes place to-morrow at Fairlight. It is said that a *demur* has arisen with regard to the Engagement of Mr. Wynch and Miss Wilmot, in consequence of the Gentleman's Fortune not answering the expectations that had been formed by the Family of the Lady. I am anticipating much pleasure from the idea of enjoying a visit to Seal. . . We heard yesterday from good authority that Mr. & Mrs. Mackenzie have finally taken Mr. Denne's House at Winchelsea, but do not know whether they have hired it or purchased the Property. We think ourselves fortunate in the prospect of having such highly esteemed & kinds friends for permanent Neighbours. I think it will also be a very agreeable circumstance to Mr. & Mrs. James John West. We are told Hastings is very full. How much I wish you could join our Parties this week, but I trust when we meet you will fix a time for coming to Broomham. Mrs. Camac was expected at her House last night, & I imagine with her return the wonted gayeties of the Place will revive. We hear Bohemia [belonging to the Wastell Brisco's] is taken by a Nobleman, but do not know his name. . . . Last Monday we dined with Mr. & Mrs. Shadwell. I am glad to say they are both much benefited in Health & Spirits by their late excursion."

In December, 1829, Sir William sent his usual present of "The Keepsake" to Mary Anne Humphry, to whom he says :

"I have not hitherto been able to profit by the lessons you was so kind as to give me in the Oriental tinting, because I have not yet procured my brushes for the purpose, but I shall do so before long. The Drawings I executed under your tuition have much pleased the friends to whom I have shewn them."

His next letter to Mary Anne Humphry dated 12th January, 1830, mentions that he is engaged in composing a new version of the second Book of the Aeneid, and requests the loan of one or two books, to be sent down by Miss Nouaille. After commenting on the death, and the striking talents, of the late Sir Thomas Lawrence, he mentions a flying morning visit made them by Mr. Francis Lipscomb, on his way from Hastings to Winchelsea. Mr. Lipscomb's eldest sister was then lodging at Hastings, with Miss Browning. Miss Humphry soon afterwards paid a visit to Broomham ; she returned to Seal at the end of March, when she received the following letter.

"Broomham, April 4th, 1830.

My dear Fanny,

. . . The Morning you left us we were favored by a visit from the Miss Millwards, who were much disappointed at not finding Miss Humphry here, as one object of their visit was to wait on her. However, they sat two hours with us, & told us all the *news* of the Neighbourhood. You have probably seen that Miss Fanny Morris' Marriage took place the next day. After partaking an elegant Breakfast at Mr. Millward's, the Bride & Bridegroom took their Departure for Tunbridge Wells, and after passing a few days there Mrs. Thomas Barton is to go on to visit her sister Mrs. Oriel, during the time that Mr. J. Barton goes to Ireland, to be present at the Roscommon Assizes, & to wind up his Account as Sheriff for the County, after which

they join Mr. & Mrs. Barton, who intend to reside in Ireland. They have quitted the Abbey and a sale of Furniture &c. which they added took place on Saturday at Battle. Sir William is much obliged by the information you have obtained from Sir Alexr. Crichton ; in consequence of his opinion, in the event of our going abroad, we have decided on not taking our Cook with us. We have heard nothing either of Mrs. North or her Friend, & therefore imagine that Coll. Clews was alarmed *either by the size or Rent* of Broomham. Sir Wm's affairs in town remain in the same state as when you left us. I shall be anxious to know that your new Clergyman is approved, but think the Parish will long regret the Departure of Mr. Engleheart. Mrs. J. J. West & James walked here to Dinner on Tuesday. The Bishop & his Family leave Hastings very shortly, I hope this connection may not end with their departure. James & his wife staid with us till Thursday, when they went on to Hastings, being engaged to breakfast & spend the next morning with Mrs. Marsh. . . . I had nearly forgot to mention that we had a visit from the *briday party* last Monday, the Bridegroom looking all happiness & Mrs. Harwood in one of the most elegant bridal Bonnets I have ever seen. Mrs. Musgrave Brisco spent a long morning with me last week ; she was *looking beautiful*, and appeared much interested in the Plantations & Improvements that are going forward at Coghurst, which she visits nearly every day. I was quite vexed on the day of your departure to find the *large Sole* had not been put in the basket, the *only one* that was worth my Mother's acceptance. . . ."

Lady Ashburnham's next letter contains some commissions for her sister, who was about to visit London : the King's death was daily expected, and everyone was engaged in procuring sables.

" Broomham, May 15th, 1830.

. . . Our friends at Winchelsea passed a morning with us last week. Miss Maryanne Molyneux is a fine young woman, as tall as her sister [Mrs. J. J. West] but very inferior both in appearance and manner. Mrs. James John West is looking very poorly. The Princess Sophia of Gloucester has taken Bohemia for six weeks ; she passed Broomham in her Carriage & four a few days ago. Mr. J. Ashburnham has been unwell for the last week with a cold, he read prayers this afternoon with great apparent difficulty to himself & it was extremely painful to his congregation. . . . Sir William met Mr. Camac one day last week at Hastings, he came down to superintend the building of a new Room. He stated that a general gloom pervaded London, & that nothing was going forward in consequence of the depression of the times & the state of the King. . . . The garden is really beautiful, not a day passes but what I wish you could see it. The Lilacs Laburnums and spring flowers have been very gay. Joseph works in it *from sunrise to sunsett* & passes Sunday in *walking about & admiring it*. . . ."

A few days later she writes, admiring some specimen's of Alicia West's Oriental tinting. She adds :

" . . . Coll. & Mrs. G. Dyke and their family are come to reside at the Vicarage at Tunbridge. Our old domestick Mrs. J. Killick was confined last week with a little girl. Mrs. Montague gave *her first Dinner Party* at the Cottage on Monday ; she walked to Broomham with her Daughter to return our visit, *in full dress*, attended by *their Footman in a like costume*. . . . A cavalcade of five Carriages & four passed Broomham on Tuesday Morning, I understand it was the Family from Beauport on their route to Dover, from whence they intended to embark for Italy. . . ."

The commissions, as we learn from the next letter, were executed satisfactorily ; but a deplorable accident to Sir William necessitated his going to town himself.

" Broomham, June 14th, 1830.

. . . Mr. & Mrs. Denny Ashburnham have passed the last week with us, and left Broomham for London this Morning. They appeared much gratified by their visit ; Mr. Denny's Health is improved and I find Mrs. Denny Ashburnham a sensible

intelligent young Woman, her musical talents are considerable, and highly cultivated; and in other respects she possesses more than common attainments. Mr. & Mrs. James West and their two eldest Daughters came to Winchelsea last Thursday to spend a few days with their son and Daughter; the following day they dined with us, when we had a large Family Party. Unfortunately on that morning Sir William's Teeth (which have been for some time in a *tottering state*) gave way, and came out, which prevented his dining with his Friends or deriving that Pleasure from their Society which he had anticipated, since which he has found the *State of his mouth* so uncomfortable that he determined on going to Town this morning to consult Mr. Bell. Mr. James West drove his party down in a Phaeton, intending to make a good deal of use of it during their stay, but they have been particularly unfortunate in the weather; and Sir William's unlucky absence, added to our uncertain prospects, prevent our inviting them here, as we should otherwise have wished to have done. About a month ago Sir William had an application from Dr. Fitton, thro' his sister at Hastings, to hire Broomham, but at the expiration of a week we heard from Miss Fitton that he had engaged Brasted Place, of which he could have immediate possession. Sir William intends consulting with Mr. Palmer & advertising Broomham, but should the heavy rains continue I fear it will operate against its letting. . . .

Mr. J. Ashburnham is returned home after having passed three weeks in town under medical advice. Dr. Reece whom he has consulted does not consider the attack on his chest of an alarming nature but recommends him not to attempt doing duty at present, & he intends engaging a curate for two months. I fear this rainy weather prevents my Mother from taking her drives. About a fortnight ago we had a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Woodgate & Miss Allnutt who drove over from St. Leonards, & the next day Mr. & Mrs. Petley and their niece passed the morning here. I was surprised to hear of the addition to Capt. Hardinge's Family. . . .

Sir William found Mr. Bell "very civil, very attentive, and very liberal"; his terms for the necessary alterations were £30. Writing from the Bolt and Tun Inn, Fleet Street, afterwards known as the Sussex Hotel, he says:

" . . . I arrived here about six o'clock on Monday. My brother John came up by the same coach, but he would take an outside passage, notwithstanding the weather was so very showery, and I was afraid he might have received injury, in his state of health, from the rain, but I am happy to say that I saw him yesterday, and he said that he was not only not the worse for travelling in the wet, but that he found himself already much benefited by the Change of air. He will not return to Guestling till the beginning of next week, as his carriage and horses will not be ready before that time. On my arrival here I was agreeably surprised to find my friend Dr. Lamb at this Hotel; and we spent a very pleasant evening together. I am sorry to say that Dr. Lamb is by no means well, and he complained of symptoms of the gout. I fear that Dr. Lamb, like myself, is suffering under the pressure of heavy pecuniary embarrassment. . . ."

Whilst in London he visited the exhibition at Somerset House with his brothers John and Denny, and saw the paintings of the lately deceased Sir Thomas Lawrence (g).

- (g) Probably one of the pictures exhibited was that of Miss Harriott West, immediately before her marriage with Mr. William Woodgate of Swaylands. This is generally considered one of the artists' finest productions, though having always been preserved in the family, it was not until lately much known. It was sold by Mrs. Ernest Woodgate of Rochester (formerly Miss Streatfeild, and William Woodgate's daughter-in-law) to Colnaghi for what was then considered the enormous (and record) sum of four thousand guineas, though we believe a painting by the same artist has lately reached a still higher figure. It is related that Miss West was very unpunctual in keeping her appointments with Sir Thomas. One day she came in late, slightly flushed and holding a watch in her hand. Her colour, her pose were so exquisite, as she advanced to make her excuses and beg the artist's forgiveness, that he readily replied, "Certainly, Madam, if you will allow me to paint you in your present attitude." The watch may be observed in the illustration which appears in this work.

Amongst the miniatures, he observed "an excellent likeness of Dr. Wilmot of Hastings, and an indifferent one of the Hon. Gustavus Hamilton." The painting that chiefly demanded his admiration was one of Miss Croker. He also attended his solicitors, the Palmers, in Bedford Row, to whom he gave the copy of an advertisement for the letting of Broomham for two years, and for the sale of the Winchelsea portion of the estate by private contract. Every day he dined at the European Rooms, opposite the Mansion House, on "a basin of some sort of excellent soup and a baked rice pudding," almost the only species of sustenance of which his condition permitted him to partake.

One of the first applicants for Broomham was a Mr. Williamson, as we learn from Lady Ashburnham.

"Broomham, July 16th, 1830.

My dear Fanny,

As my Mother and yourself appear desirous of being made acquainted with Mr. Williamson's decision with regard to hiring Broomham, I lose no time in informing you of the result of the negotiations. Mr. Williamson came to St. Leonards with his Family the beginning of the week, and last Wednesday brought Mrs. Williamson here to see the place, when she expressed herself in strong terms of disapprobation to her Husband's engaging any country Residence, more particularly *one* in Sussex, having always resided in the neighbourhood of London; and this morning Sir Wm. has received a letter from Mr. Williamson, stating that he finds it impossible to overcome the *impracticable prejudice of his wife*, and therefore that he is obliged with much reluctance to decline becoming the tenant of Broomham. From what we could learn with regard to character and circumstances, he would have proved a most desirable Tenant, but from the apparent temper and *tone of mind* displayed by his wife, I should have felt regret at entrusting so much valuable property to her care. I understand she was a Daughter to one of the great Brewers, and probably had a large fortune. . . . Give our kind love and express our best thanks to Mrs. Nouaille for her kindness in writing to Mrs. Thomas and making enquiries for a Residence at Brussels for us, and we shall feel much indebted to you to communicate the answer. Mr. Wynch has applied for the refusal of Broomham for a Friend of his.

The excitement which a general Election produces is commencing. We are told there will be no contest for Sussex. Mr. Herbert Curteis call'd a few days ago to solicit Sir Wm's support and interest. Mr. & Mrs. J. J. West with her sister are gone this week to visit Admiral and Mrs. Rarnin (?) who reside near Lewis. *I shall begin to conjecture that Capt'n. Newcombe has other motives besides being introduced to my Mother for visiting Seal.* I have seen Mrs. M. Brisco one morning; they are to go to the Postern again about this time, & return in about a fortnight when they take Possession of their new House. Amongst the numerous enquiries that have been made with regard to Broomham, no objection whatever has been made to the terms on which it is proposed to be lett. . . ."

Soon after this Lady Ashburnham repaired for a short visit to Seal; Sir William was unable to accompany her, for he was engaged to preside at a public dinner at Hastings, of which he has left a full account on record:

"Broomham, August 17th, 1830.

My dear Julia,

. . . I shall now detail to you the proceedings which took place at Hastings in honour of His Majesty's accession. I arrived at the Swan Hotel about five o'clock, over the door of which a large union flag was displayed. About half past five the company, which consisted of between seventy and eighty persons, sat down to an excellent dinner served up in the assembly room. There was one long table, a cross table at the top of the room for the principal persons who attended, and two short side tables. All the regulations of the day were very well managed. I was supported on my right hand by Mr. Stonestreet, and on my left by Mr. Burton, who however quitted at nine o'clock, as he was obliged to set out at that hour for London, to be

examined this day respecting a suit which is now pending in the Court of Chancery. Amongst the gentlemen who attended this meeting, in addition to those I have already named, were Dr. Wilmot, Mr. Wynch, Mr. Peter Wynch, Mr. Richards, my nephew James, Capt. Brown, Capt. Jeffery (who enlivened the meeting by singing several very appropriate songs), Mr. Miller, Mr. Savery, one of the sons of Mr. Scrivens (who was the only person connected with the Corporation whom I saw in the room), Mr. Durrant, Mr. Collins of Winchelsea, Mr. Baker, &c. My nephew James' friend Mr. Sharp was not present, James imagines that he was away from home. I have the satisfaction to inform you that the evening passed off most harmoniously, and that the most perfect unanimity prevailed. The object of the meeting seemed to be well understood and cordially embraced. The assembly was distinguished by the most animated, the most enlivening conviviality, interspersed with the most enthusiastic bursts of loyalty. All the sentiments I uttered appeared to be generally and very highly approved of, and were greeted by loud and frequent peals of applause. When my health was given, my name was received with the loudest acclamations, which were redoubled when I quitted the Chair, affording a very gratifying proof that my conduct had given entire satisfaction. I must not omit to mention that in the course of the evening your health was given, and received, as it always ought to be, with the most rapturous plaudits. You cannot imagine how much this unexpected compliment (unexpected at a political dinner) warmed my bosom with delight; and it affords me great pleasure now to report it to you. I left Hastings about ten o'clock in the evening and reached Broomham at half past eleven.

I now turn to quite a different subject, but on which I have information to send you, which on many accounts I know you will be glad to hear. My Bailiff George Kennard has taken a small farm at Pembury belonging to a gentleman of the name of Fowler, whose father formerly resided at Spring Grove [the property of the late Henry Woodgate, Mrs. Musgrave Brisco's father]. Young Mr. Fowler and his brother called upon me yesterday to enquire the character of Kennard; and the character which I could justly give him was so satisfactory that Mr. Fowler immediately let Kennard the farm which he is to enter upon at old Michaelmas. Although Kennard does not suit me as a servant, yet I really, sincerely think he will make a very good tenant. I am in hopes, therefore, that this arrangement may prove beneficial to all parties. . . ."

His next letter is written after the receipt of alarming news from Seal. A serious change had occurred in the state of Mrs. Humphry's health, and the worst apprehensions for her safety were excited. He mentions his intention of joining the party at Seal after a few days.

" Broomham, August 21st, 1830.

. . . In consequence of the Letter you have received from our friend Mrs. Lewis Mackenzie suggesting the idea that she and the Major have some thoughts of visiting St. Leonards, I think I ought to lose no time in proposing to Major Mackenzie the plan I have had in view, for an exchange of residences, offering him Broomham for six months, on condition that we may be permitted to occupy his house in Connaught Square during the same period. The adoption of this plan will not in any degree interfere with any arrangement you may wish to make for staying with your Mother. I should not be at all surprized if the Mackenzies have had an intimation, through Dr. Lamb, of my intention of offering them Broomham, and that Mrs. Lewis Mackenzie's Letter was written partly to sound you on the subject before they came to a final determination respecting the taking up a temporary abode at St. Leonards.

My nephew James walked over with me on Thursday last to Mountfield; Dr. Lamb (*h*) was not at home, but we saw the Ladies who enquired very kindly after

(*h*) Thomas Philip Lamb, Esq., of Court Lodge, Mountfield, M.P. for Rye, died in 1819. It is supposed that Dr. Lamb was a son or brother of his.

you. Dr. Lamb was engaged at the town-hall at Rye on important and very urgent public business. I am sorry to inform you that the family at Mountfield were greatly alarmed by authentic information that it was the intention of the mob of Rye to attack their house last Wednesday night. Dr. Lamb applied for and obtained a guard of soldiers, which prudent precaution probably intimidated his enemies, as the premeditated attack was not made on that night, but the family think it is only postponed. This is a sad state of things! After our return from Mountfield I dined with James and his wife at Winchelsea. . . ."

The reply shews that Mrs. Humphry's life was despaired of, though she managed, in fact, to recover.

" . . . I think your plan of offering Broomham to Mr. & Mrs. Mackenzie for a term of six months a *very eligible one*. . . . It is very unfortunate that Sir Alexander Crichton is absent, not that I think medical aid would be of any avail in my dear Mother's case. Mr. & Mrs. Petley have just called; they made many enquiries after you, and desired their kind regards. Poor Mrs. Nouaille visits us daily, and has promised to pass the period of my absence here which will be a great comfort to Fanny. . . ."

Sir William passed a few days at Seal, and on his return at the beginning of October has some trifling domestic news to relate, such as the loss of four ducks, stolen out of the park by some itinerant hop-pickers; the state of the house and garden and particulars of his journey down. He adds:

"I am sorry to say that the miscellaneous intelligence I have to communicate is chiefly of a melancholy nature. A dreadful accident took place on Friday last on Fairlight down. Sir Frederick Baker (whom you may recollect to have met at Mrs. Camac's) was walking near Mr. Milward's mill, which was at work at the time, and being near sighted he approached too near to one of the shafts, one of which struck him on the head, and now lies without any hopes of recovery.

I regret to inform you that our old and benevolent friend Miss Milward was seized with a fit on Sunday last, and was obliged to be carried out of church. She is in some degree recovered, but she has not been out of her house since Sunday; I am grieved to add that her medical attendants consider the attack which she has experienced to be of the most serious, the most alarming description. You will receive to-morrow, Monday, October 4th, by the ten o'clock Hastings coach, a package containing three pheasants, two partridges and a goose. . . ."

Two days later he writes what he calls a supplement to his last letter, in which he describes his farming affairs. It seems that he had suddenly, and almost unexpectedly, sustained some heavy financial blow in connection with the Winchelsea estate, which occasioned several journeys to town, and was the cause of a general reduction of expenditure. To this, too, may be attributed his resolution of letting Broomham and living in a less expensive manner elsewhere, as he probably felt that at Guestling he was obliged to maintain a certain establishment and expenditure. One of the measures adopted, so it seems, was to take in hand some of his land that had been given up by the tenants, and retain it in his own occupation, managed by his bailiff. The details of his clover, his barley, and his sheep, are too minute for the general reader.

He continues:—

"George Kennard quits my service on Monday next, and Charles Wilson will take possession of my cottage the next day, but as I shall have several arrangements to settle with Wilson, I am afraid I shall not be able to leave Broomham until towards the end of next week. . . . I have great satisfaction in informing you that Mr. Brisco told me that Miss Milward is recovered from her late illness, and that it is now considered that her attack was not of so dangerous a nature as was at first apprehended. The unfortunate Sir Frederick Baker is dead, and shocking to relate

his wife Lady Baker was present when the fatal accident took place. Lady Baker had cautioned her husband not to get too near the shafts of the mill, but unhappily the caution was not attended to. When I arrived at Broomham on Saturday evening I found a parcel here from my brother Denny containing a drawing, a present from one of Mrs. Denny Ashburnham's sisters. The drawing, which is very beautiful, is executed with a pencil. . . .

Sir Godfrey Webster, I hear, is now residing at the George Inn at Battle, and that he has breakfasted with Lady Webster at the Abbey, and has driven her out in her poney-chaise; this looks like symptoms of reconciliation, which, I hope will be eventually accomplished. Sir Godfrey, I am told, is in a deplorable state of health; excesses of every kind have broken up an originally good constitution. [It will be remembered that Battle Abbey, until lately, had been tenanted by the Bartons]. Mr. Musgrave Brisco has just sent me a brace of pheasants and a hare. I have sent the hare and one of the pheasants to Mrs. John Ashburnham, the other I shall have dressed at home; as I have sent game to Seal so lately, I imagined you would not wish to have any more at present."

Three days later on 8th October he writes again, with more particulars of the garden and farm. He states that the wool at the sheephouse had been weighed, and found to be worth £350; and that he had good reason for thinking that the produce of the sheep house farm would altogether be much more considerable than his brother John anticipated, notwithstanding the disadvantages attendant on an entering year.

"I met Mr. Frederick North yesterday, and was sorry to find from him that the family had not heard from his brother Charles, at which they begin to be rather uneasy. Poor Mr. Dome died the day before yesterday. He departed this life at Fairlight Place. I understand that he had been for some time in a very declining state of health. There is to be a Public Meeting held at the Swan Hotel, Hastings, on Tuesday next for the purpose of establishing and organizing a district Bible Society for Hastings and its vicinity. The Earl of Chichester has accepted of the office of president, and will certainly take the chair on the occasion. I am to be one of the vice-presidents, and shall consequently attend; I hope the design will be well supported, as I consider district Bible Societies to be very useful and beneficial Institutions. You need not be apprehensive that I shall incur much expense by this undertaking; I shall only subscribe one guinea."

On the 11th he writes again:

"... I am sorry to say that depredations of a serious nature are commencing in this parish. About a week ago Mrs. Montague had her larder broke open at Guestling cottage and robbed of the greater part of the provisions which it contained. The larder is detached from the house and therefore in an exposed situation. But Mrs. Montague has a fierce dog which she considered as a guard, notwithstanding which the robbers effected their purpose. Previous to this my brother John had a pig killed and stolen in a most audacious manner. In the night all my brother's pigs were driven out of his farm yard, when the robbers selected one which they killed in my wood, adjoining to Ford's house, in which wood some of the remains were afterwards found, together with a stout club such as are used by the smugglers. No traces of the perpetrators have yet been discovered. On Saturday night my brother's bailiff William Knight seized the notorious young Watson in an attempt to break open the lock of the place where the rabbits are kept. Watson was taken into custody, but yesterday being Sunday the magistrates were not able to act; Watson, however, was put in confinement and will be examined this day, when he will unquestionably be committed to the county jail to take his trial.

Cooke certainly quits my church-house farm; indeed he has not money sufficient to carry on the business. My brother John, as one of the trustees under my father's will, consents to manage the concern until an eligible, and responsible, tenant can be

found. As Cooke has got no house we allow him to stay where he is till Lady day on his paying an adequate rent for the dwelling. . . ."

Three days after this letter Sir William set out for Seal, where he spent nearly a month—unless in the interval he visited London, as had been suggested previously—and returned the first week in November. Lady Ashburnham writes to her Mother, who seems to have recovered from her attack :—

" Broomham, Novr. 8th, 1830.

My dear Mother,

We reached Broomham Tuesday Eveng about seven o'clock after a prosperous and pleasant journey. We passed an hour with our Friends at Dryhill, where we added to *the number of our Packages*. The weight of our Luggage delayed us longer on the road than usual. We hope yourself and dear Fanny have been well since our departure ; I trust I need not say with how much Pleasure I reflect on the great kindness we received during our late agreeable visit at Seal, and only wish our Residence was nearer, that we could enjoy the happiness of meeting more frequently. On our arrival here we had the satisfaction of finding our Establishment and everything connected *with home* going on in good order, but I am much concerned to add that the same bad spirit, which has lately been displayed in Kent, has spread into this part of the country. The night after our return we saw from our front windows a large Fire blazing tremendously in the direction of Battle. We have since learnt that it was the stacks of corn belonging to Mr. Emery, the master of the Inn there, which were entirely consumed. The next night a *large Fire* was discerned from the back of the House which proved to be the stacks &c. of Mr. Farncomb, an opulent Farmer at Icklesham, which were also entirely consumed ; several other Fires have also taken place in this country. One night last week the stacks &c. belonging to one of Mr. Fuller's tenants were burnt to the ground. He has generously offered a reward of two hundred Pounds for the discovery of the Incendiary. Mr. Cobbet has been lecturing in this Neighbourhood, and many strangers of a doubtful description have been observed, who it is thought have been endeavouring to excite a spirit of discontent amongst the labourers towards their employers, as well as a spirit of disloyalty towards the government. Meetings of the Magistrates have frequently taken place, and it is earnestly to be hoped their efforts may lead to some discovery.

I wish I had more agreeable Intelligence to communicate, and must now turn to other subjects. . . . I found a kind Letter from Mrs. Camac on our return and a Card announcing a long list of Parties for the Winter. The two Miss Millwards were at the last Ball. Miss Millward danced a great part of the Evening, therefore I imagine she is entirely recovered from her late Indisposition. . . ."

Cobbett was well-known in his day as a political firebrand, a centre of disaffection and sedition ; at the present day, however, his powers of exciting discontent would be considered commonplace. In 1830, the most deplorable agrarian outrages were being perpetrated throughout England, especially in Kent and Sussex. The farmers' crops were freely burnt and their houses plundered until January, 1831, when stern measures of repression were adopted. England was convulsed over the Reform question, and feelings ran high everywhere. While the Ashburnhams were at Seal, a fire was observed from Coghurst one evening to be blazing exactly in the direction of Broomham ; Mr. Musgrave Brisco hurriedly collected his servants and some labourers and went to the rescue, but found the whole thing a false alarm*.

The next year Sir William sent Miss Humphry some material for her album ; his remarks on the occasion form a very good sample of his style.

My dear Miss Humphry,

" Broomham, April 15th, 1831.

By favour of Miss Jesse Crichton, who returns to the Grove on Monday next, I have an opportunity of sending you some food for your album, which, upon the

whole, will I hope prove acceptable, though every dish may not be equally piquant or nutritious. I promised to be your purveyor, and in right of that office I present this as a first course. Taste differs so much amongst individuals, that many things which may be palatable to one are by no means relished by another. Perhaps therefore you may deem some of the verses too *tart*, and others too *flat*; if this is the case, I have only to say, I particularly request that you will, without the smallest hesitation, fling them away. It is my wish to assist, not to dictate, and I shall be amply rewarded if any of my selections are adopted.

In regard to my own compositions, it does not become me to venture an opinion; but all the other pieces I consider to possess some merit in their respective lines. Amongst them you will find a great variety of thought, sentiment, style, and versification. I esteem variety highly desirable, if not an absolutely necessary qualification in an album. The grave, the gay, the humourous, and the pathetic, like light and shade in a picture, heighten the effect of each other by the powerful operation of contrast. . . . Together with the poetry, I send you the Humphry arms emblazoned, which will make a very appropriate frontispiece to your album. It is not so well executed as I could wish, but you will recollect that it is a first attempt, and that I am not so much at home with my pencil as I am with my pen. You will cut away the paper close to the drawing, and paste the Heraldic bearings on a leaf at the beginning of your Album, where I think it will have a tolerably good effect. . .

I had a narrow escape yesterday from a mad dog. I had been to attend a parish meeting at the workhouse, and in coming through my Grove in my way to Broomham, I heard some men (who were running) exclaim—a mad dog! and I saw a dog galloping down the road towards me. From the Warning I had received I had time by rushing into the rough part of the Grove to escape the impending danger, an escape for which I am, and ought to be, very thankful; for I consider Hydrophobia to be one of the most dreadful calamities to which our nature is subject. The mad dog was pursued through the parishes of Guestling and Fairlight, and was at last killed between Fairlight place and the sea. In its course it bit several dogs, but providentially it did not injure any human creature. I am sorry to say that several mad dogs have made their appearance in this neighbourhood. A mad dog bit two or three dogs lately at Winchelsea. Ten of my sheep, (Lambs of last year) belonging to the sheep-house farm, which were put out to keep at Heathfield, were bit by a mad dog, and were obliged to be killed.

I esteem the portrait of your dear Mother to be a striking, but by no means a flattering likeness. It is executed, upon the whole, much better than I expected; though the colouring in the countenance, especially in the eyes, is certainly too faint. . . ."

The portrait referred to was a painting by Mr. Hazlehurst. One painting was sent to Broomham, the other retained by Miss Humphry*.

In August and September the Ashburnhams visited Seal, from which Sir William returned first. He writes on 13th September, the day of his return, with an account of the various domestic and other concerns; everything had gone on well in their absence under the superintendence of Mrs. Impett, the fruit (especially the Ribstone pippins) was abundant and of very good quality; the flower garden was disappointing, but the farm had turned out well. The oats and barley were got up in good condition, and the brakes cut and for the most part carried. He continues:

" . . . Between my hour of dinner, and taking my tea, I went to the parsonage where I found my brother John, Mrs. John Ashburnham and all their family quite well. Johnny is not gone to school; I imagine he will not return to Camberwell any more. It was very fortunate that I did see my brother immediately, since he had received no notification of the meeting that is to be held this Day for the purpose

* See Reference Sheet.

of adjusting the plan for the improvement of Rye harbour, and the embankment of the adjacent lands. It is very extraordinary that my brother has had no notice, because the chairman at the last general meeting promised my brother that he should be informed when the next meeting was to take place. My brother will attend the meeting this day, and if, before I close this letter, I can learn what business was transacted there, I will send you the particulars."

He goes on to say that Mr. and Mrs. Howard Elphinstone had called to ask them to the Hastings and St. Leonards' regatta, which took place under the patronage of Mr. Howard Elphinstone and his brother-in-law Mr. Herbert Curteis; and that Mrs. Camac had sent them invitations to all the amusements of the race week. However, "Broomham appears very dull in the absence of the ruling star, with whose cheering beams it is usually enlivened," and Sir William employed a considerable part of his time in writing letters to Seal, whither he sent too, a quantity of fruit and some partridges, shot that day (Sept. 1st).

The letter containing an account of the Rye Harbour meeting is missing; and the next is dated 13th Sept. He says:

"... My brother John came here to say, that a meeting would be held at Rye on Monday next to take into consideration a plan which it is hoped will settle for ever the supposed claims of the Crown, but which plan is connected with so many legal points which my brother does not think himself competent to decide upon without Mr. Palmer's professional assistance that he has written to him to request him to come down to attend the meeting. My brother, likewise, does not chuse on so important a subject to incur the sole responsibility. I shall write to Mr. Palmer to invite him to take up his abode at Broomham, and I expect to see him here on Saturday or Sunday next. As Mr. Palmer is coming on my business I am bound to show him every attention, more particularly so as his house in town is at all times most hospitably opened for my reception. I wish also to have an interview with Mr. Palmer, and have some conversation with him on various topics. . . . I have just this moment heard that Mrs. John Ashburnham was safely delivered this morning of a son, and that both the Mother and the child are going on remarkably well.

The Princess Sophia of Gloucester has taken a house at St. Leonards; she wished very much to have had Bohemia, had it been furnished. On the day of the coronation Her Royal Highness laid the first stone of the new church which is to be built at St. Leonards amidst the applauding acclamations of the people, a good work very properly commenced on such a day. Mr. Capel Molyneux delivered a prayer on the occasion. Some hundreds of the lower classes of the people were amply regaled with refreshments in a booth which the Princess honoured with her presence. Loyalty and good feeling were the order of the day. . . ."

Surrounded by so many distractions, Sir William decided to prolong, although impatiently, his absence from Seal. With characteristic consideration, he deemed that the prolonged visit of a gentleman might cause some inconvenience at Seal, while the stay of his wife would be all the more valuable because of its extension. Besides, his iarming concerns at that period required his presence and inspection. The difficulty of selling commodities and of obtaining payment after their sale he declared to be almost incredible.

Without further particulars than are at present available, it is impossible for us to understand the question of the Winchelsea lands. An Act of Parliament was passed in July, 1830, to enable Commissioners to raise additional funds on the tolls by way of mortgage or otherwise, and to amend an act passed in 1801, which was an Act for more effectually improving the old Harbour of Rye, and to appoint new Commissioners. Mr. Palmer had gone for three weeks into Yorkshire and was unable to attend the meeting; consequently Sir William Ashburnham was enabled to

set out for Seal the next week. The next letter of his that we have was written on the occasion of his sending the Keepsake to Mary Anne Humphry. After this the correspondence is taken up by Lady Ashburnham.

“ Broomham, Dec. 14th, 1831.

My dear Fanny,

Being considerably in arrears with you on the score of Letters, I now sit down to liquidate a part of the obligations. . . . We had a most agreeable visit at Coghurst & had the Pleasure of meeting Mr. & Mrs. West, who were passing a few days there previous to taking possession of their Lodgings at Hastings. Mrs. Brisco appears in very good health, & was looking beautiful. This morning we went to Hastings and paid visits to many of our Friends there; at Mrs. Shadwell's we met Mrs. Luxford & her Daughters who were staying in Hastings for the benefit of Elizabeth Luxford's health, but I am happy to say she did not appear much of an Invalid, & was extremely agreeable. Mrs. Luxford seemed really glad to renew her acquaintance with me, & enquired with much kindness & interest after you all. We called afterwards on Mrs. Lipscomb who was looking sadly, she had been confined to the sofa for some time.

I know Maryanne will feel an interest in hearing the particulars of Miss Brownings's unfortunate marriage, for unfortunate I find it is considered by her true friends. From the most authentic information I can obtain I learnt that when Dr. Godwin first made proposals she laid before him a statement of her affairs, which were much embarrassed, the receipts never having met the expenditure since she first took the house in Pelham Place. A similar statement was also sent to her own Friends who, under the consideration that the distressed members of the Family had been chiefly supported, undertook to make an arrangement with the different Tradespeople to whom she was indebted. Under these circumstances the Marriage took place. The Friends afterwards not coming forward so speedily as was expected, the creditors became clamorous, & Dr. Godwin considering that he had made himself responsible took himself off for France, & his poor wife went to her sister at Tunbridge Wells. The little property she possess has since been sold under an execution for Rent. As it is clearly ascertained she was becoming more embarrassed every year I think she was wrong in not sooner breaking up the Establishment, but she probably hoped from the increasing importance of the place that future success might retrieve past misfortunes & enable her to extricate herself from the difficulties of her situation. I learnt from Miss Luxford that Dr. Godwin was formally Curate of Ewhurst, that he was considered a man of generally bad character, an habitual gambler, & that the Fortune he once possessed was supposed to be much lessened if not altogether dissipated. She appeared very much to regret that Mrs. Godwin should have been induced to form so unfortunate & precipitate a connexion.

We were very glad to hear a good account of Mr. Engleheart & happy to find he has regained his Health. I hope Lady Crichton is relieved from her anxiety for the safe return of Sir Alexander to his Family. About a fortnight ago I had a visit from Lady Crawford accompanied by Miss Sayer; she expressed a great wish to become acquainted with Sir William, having formerly been intimate with many of the members of the Ashburnham Family.”

The next two letters are from Sir William. The first is chiefly concerned with the election of Mercy Bartholomew, a little girl, into the asylum for the relief of Deaf and Dumb Children, a society which engaged his warmest sympathy and active interest. He obtained for the object of his solicitude from eight hundred to one thousand votes. He relates that his “ relation Mr. Charles Ashburnham, brother to the Earl of Ashburnham, is going to be married to Miss Murray, a young lady highly accomplished, and possessing a large fortune.” The second, dated 24th February, 1832, contains an acknowledgment of three large nets from Miss Humphry

made by herself, to protect the wall fruit from the assaults of birds. She continues :—

“ Mrs. West of the Postern appeared to leave Hastings with much reluctance. In addition to her relations and friends at Hastings and in its vicinity, she had many old acquaintance who are now become settled residents at St. Leonards, particularly the Burtons, Mrs. and Miss May, and the Miss Morleys. St. Leonards has been much improved of late by the erection of several new and very elegant stone edifices in the villa style. Foundations for houses are digging at various different places between Hastings and St. Leonards and I think, before long, it will become all one town. I am sorry to hear that Mr. Burton has been very unwell for some time past. The Hon. Mr. Percy Ashburnham is now at the Hotel at St. Leonards. My brother John and I called upon him there but did not find him at home. He has been recommended to St. Leonards for the benefit of his health. The Earl of Ashburnham pays such marked attentions to Miss Gilbert that it is imagined a matrimonial alliance between the parties is likely to take place. Miss Gilbert is very amiable and very handsome ; she was considered to be the most beautiful girl that attended the last Hastings Ball.

Capt. and Mrs. Wilford are now resident at Shorter's cottage. Mrs. Wilford I think you may remember to have formerly met as Miss Frances Denne. Mrs. Wilford has performed a feat, of which I believe few Ladies, except herself, can boast, namely that she has compleatly sailed round the globe. They went to New South Wales, where Capt. Wilford's regiment was stationed, by the Cape of Good Hope, and through the Indian Ocean ; and on their return to England, They crossed the Pacific Ocean, and entered the Atlantic through the straits of Magellan. Mr. Wilford describes the climate of Sydney as very hot ; but that the country abounded with a profusion of flowers brilliant in their hues and various in their forms.

. . . We shall be most happy to accept of your mother's kind invitation, and pay you a visit at Seal as soon as circumstances will permit ; but I am sorry to say, that the parish of Guestling is in a very disorganized and discordant state, and I must stay here till some arrangement has taken place respecting the appointment of parish officers for the ensuing year. . . .”

The marriage of Charles Ashburnham, who was secretary to the Embassy at Constantinople, took place in February, 1832 ; but nothing further came of the matter between the Earl of Ashburnham and Miss Gilbert. It would seem that the visit to Seal duly took place ; but that in July an alarming change in Mrs. Humphry's health occurred, and Lady Ashburnham hastened to her beside. This unfortunate event, however, resulted in the gain to us of several interesting letters from Sir William.

“ Broomham, July 17th, 1832.

. . . After parting with you on Fairlight Down, I went to Rocklands where I found Mr. and Mrs. Milward at breakfast, and I partook of a dish of cocoa with them. Afterwards we called in Charles Wilson, and Mr. Milward's shepherd, and we held a consultation on the management of South Down sheep. Mr. Milward says that his shepherd was brought up on the South downs, and that he considers him as a remarkably intelligent man in his line. In answer to the numerous interrogations which I put to the Shepherd, I collected the following information. In the first place Mr. Milward's flock is folded the whole year round, except during the severest of the winter months, when they are placed in a warm, roomy close well littered with straw ; thus the whole of the manure is preserved for the benefit of the land. This you see exactly accords with your ideas on this part of the subject. To effect this, however, the flock must be well fed. The shepherd strongly recommends dry food for sheep in the winter season, but not of an expensive kind ; he has used oat-straw, and pea-haulm, and even barley-straw with great success. Secondly, Mr. Milward attributes the high price he usually gets for his lambs, not only to the goodness of his breed, but likewise to the pains he takes to furnish his lambs with an abundance of

nutritious food immediately after they are weaned, and thus to force them forward. The best food for this purpose he esteems to be a second crop of clover, and where this cannot be procured then the rowings of meadow land after the hay has been carried. I shall reserve rowings in my meads for my lambs, which are to be weaned as soon as the ewes are shorn. I cannot recapitulate in a letter all that passed concerning the best modes of employing artificial food ; but I shall conclude this subject by observing that I find a large portion of my ewes are much too old for profit, and that I have been in an erroneous habit of keeping them too long. In consequence of this information I have determined, if possible, to turn out one hundred and twenty ewes this year. I have engaged Mr. Milward to supply me with forty ewes, and twenty ewe Lambs. I partake of a family dinner to-day at Rocklands with Mr. and Mrs. Milward but to meet no company.

My brother John went to Coghurst on Saturday, and saw Mr. Musgrave Brisco, who treated him in the most friendly manner, and assured him that he would give him any information in his power, but he was not aware that his father was a bidder for my Winchelsea estate, and that he was confident that if his father had had any such intentions he would have named it to him ; he finished by saying that he thought my Winchelsea estate must be worth more than twenty six thousands pounds. From this I conclude that either there were no real bidders at the sale, or that we shall not be able to trace them. I fear therefore that I have no chance of selling that property at present.

I have one piece of bad news (in a little way) to communicate, namely, that there was an attempt made on Saturday night to steal your geese ; and although the robbers were disturbed, they succeeded in carrying off one young goose. Jane was awakened by the geese making an unusual noise, when she flung up her bedroom window, and, altho it was almost dark, she plainly saw a man in dark trousers and a light-coloured jacket, with a goose under his arm, hurrying through the door that leads from the back-yard to the pleasure grounds. It was very extraordinary that the dogs took no notice of what was passing whatever. They must I think have had something given them. I shall take some precautions to prevent such outrages in future ; but with what success I know not.

My brother John's ox-team has been ploughing my Smugglers field this morning, and I am to have the use of this team at present for their keep. I hope in the course of a few days to purchase two cart horses, one of my brother John and one of Benfield, but it is not quite settled."

The next letter refers to the proposed sale, not of the Winchelsea estate, but of *Broomham*, which was a property perfectly distinct from the other ; it is dated 20th July.

"I received yesterday a Letter from Mr. Palmer, from which I send you the following extract. Mr. Palmer says, ' I have been able to call upon Mr. Humphreys this morning, when I verbally described to him, as well as I was able, the Broomham estate ; and required of him on whose account it was that the advertisement was inserted. He says that a Mr. Hibbert left by his will a very large sum of money, and directed that a portion of it should be laid out in the purchase of a freehold estate in one of the counties mentioned in the advertisement you saw ; and that the purchase is to be made under the direction of the Court of Chancery, and to be approved of by Master Winkfield, a Master in Chancery. Mr. Humphreys says that the person who is to possess the estate prefers one in Hampshire, but if I will furnish him (Mr. Humphreys) with the particulars of the different farms, the rent, Land-tax, tythes, poor-rates, and other usual particulars, with the price, it shall be laid before the Master. The money to be laid out in the purchase of an estate is £40,000 or upwards.'

It is impossible to ascertain how this negotiation may end, but it is certain that there is a bona fide purchaser, and all the parties appear to be respectable. I think

trustees are more likely to give a full and fair price than any other persons. The terms I ask are thirty years purchase on the actual rents, four thousand pounds for the mansion, and the timber to be valued. Even my brother John is of opinion that if these terms can be procured it would be advisable to agree to them. Both Mr. Palmer and Mr. Hare thought these terms fair, and that perhaps they might be obtained. I know the name of Hibbert very well in the commercial or mercantile world ; but I do not at present recollect any thing about the family. I shall forward to Mr. Palmer the information he requires as soon as possible.

After dispatching my Letter to you on Tuesday, I proceeded to Rocklands to dine with Mr. and Mrs. Milward, where I met a very small party consisting of the two Miss Birds and Mr. Foyster, the new Rector of All Saints and St. Clements, Hastings. The Miss Birds spoke very highly of the sermon which my nephew James preached last Sunday at St. Mary for the benefit of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge. They said that his discourse was very impressive and excellent, but rather too long. The collection made at the Church doors in behalf of the Institution amounted to upwards of twenty pounds, a very good collection considering there is so little company, at present, in Hastings. . . .

The Reform dinner took place yesterday at Hastings. I am told it was admirably arranged and conducted, and gave universal satisfaction. The most perfect order, regularity and harmony prevailed. The poor inhabitants of Hastings were entertained with a dinner in the priory meads, when between eighty and ninety tables were placed for their reception, at which five thousand four hundred persons sat down. The number of people assembled, including spectators, was estimated at fourteen thousand. The health of the King was drank with enthusiastic shouts of Loyalty. The town of Hastings was ornamented with green boughs, and flags of various descriptions ; the flags, amounting to above a hundred, were afterwards removed to the place of entertainment. In the latter part of the day a variety of amusements were prepared to entertain the populace ; and the whole concluded with a display of fireworks. . . .”

His next letter, dated 26th July, intimates his intention shortly of being at Seal, and deplores the unfavourable turn in Mrs. Humphry's illness. He says :

“ . . . I have just finished a Schedule of my Broomham estate for Mr. Palmer, containing the name of every field, the name of every occupier, the number of acres, the species of land, the rent, and every other kind of information which I think can be required, such as the amount of tithes, poor-rates, &c. This task has given me a great deal of trouble, and has taken up a large portion of my time. I anxiously await the result of the pending negotiation, as almost every day's experience convinces me that I never shall be comfortable until I have sold the Broomham estate ; because no other measure will afford me so good an income together with a regular payment of the same, not subject to contingencies. On this important subject, however, I will say more when I see you. . . . I am extremely sorry to hear that Philip Nouaille's expedition [to Canada] has commenced so very unpropitiously ; but I hope that the next accounts will be more favourable, and I entertain no doubt but that he will ultimately succeed.

I dined on Tuesday at Coghurst with Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave Brisco, and Mr. and Mrs. West ; and I was glad to see our friends there looking so well. Old Mr. Brisco arrived at Hastings on Tuesday ; and Mr. and Mrs. William Camac are making a tour through Wales. I was very sorry to learn from Mrs. West that my friend Alderman Atkins (2) had lately lost his youngest daughter. The young lady, I believe, has always been very unhealthy. I see also by the newspapers that Alderman Farebrother has lately lost a daughter.

(i) Mr. John Pelly Atkins, the only surviving son of Alderman Atkins, married the only daughter of J. G. Children, and grand-daughter of George Children of Ferox Hall Tonbridge.

. . . Charles Wilson gave me notice, in a very respectful manner, that he should wish to quit my service at Michaelmas next, and at the same time thanking me for all the favours he had received. The reason he alledged for taking this step was, in the first place, that he had never had good health since he has been at Guestling and he thought the air did not agree with him ; secondly, that the people in the parish had taken such a dislike to him as to render his situation very uncomfortable. He says he cannot account for this dislike unless it is because, whilst he manages my farming affairs, he will see that my workmen do a full and fair day's work, which he thinks they are not inclined to do. . . . My haymaking goes on very prosperously, and I believe I shall have (including the stack in the marsh) at least one hundred tons. . . ."

Broomham was duly advertised to be sold by private contract ; and the following brief description is taken from the somewhat lengthy particulars.

The property comprised some 2,290 acres of land in the parishes of Guestling, Icklesham, Pett and Rye, including Broomham house and park, outbuildings and stabling for twelve horses, keeper's lodge, &c. ; the Manors of Heigham and French Court ; the ruins of the ancient castle of Winchelsea called the Camber Castle ; and the Bailiwick or office of Bailiff of the Town of New Winchelsea. The principal farms were the Sheepphouse Farm, 883 acres ; Place Farm, 155 acres ; the Park, consisting of 150 acres and some lands adjoining ; and 336 acres of wood, besides smaller farms, cottages, &c., &c. This was of the yearly value of £2,500 ;

Broomham house	£100
The Estate	£1,500
Winchelsea Estate	£900
	£2,500

This at thirty years purchase would represent a sum of £75,000 ; but fortunately, so it seems to us, no purchaser came forward. It is evident that the Winchelsea estate is here included.

In the interval between this, and the next letter that is preserved, Sir William had returned from Seal. He mentions his agreeable journey down in the coach, and has several little pieces of domestic intelligence for Lady Ashburnham, which may be passed over here.

" Broomham, October 11th, 1832.

. . . I was sorry to hear that old Mr. Brisco had been extremely ill, so much so that Mrs. Camac had sent round cards to postpone her Monday evening party. I sent yesterday to enquire after him ; and the report was, that he was rather better, though still confined to his bed. His complaint however is rheumatism, which though painful and troublesome, is, I believe, never dangerous. My brother John went to London on Thursday last, and took John Piers with him in his way to school. Mrs. Ashburnham and the children at the parsonage are all well, except the baby, who is very poorly, and suffers much from cutting his teeth.

When I came home, I found here a long and very civil letter from Mr. Sharpe, in which he *nibbles* at my political opinions, but without refuting them. He and Mrs. Sharpe desire me to present their best compliments to you. . . . When absent, nothing gives me greater pleasure than to receive a Letter from my dear wife, more especially now, as I am very anxious to hear that you are quite well. You will present my Love and kindest regards to your dear Mother and your Sisters. I am, my dear Julia, with the tenderest love and warmest affection, your faithful husband,

William Ashburnham."

His next letter, dated 16th October, announced that Durham, one of the Winchelsea tenants, had refused to give up possession when required to do so, after

proper notice given ; Sir William was fully equal to the occasion, and took prompt measures for an ejectment, all the more so as Durham seems to have been of a malicious and impudent temper. There had also been difficulty over a valuation. At the Lewes sheep fair, notwithstanding the business being dull, Mr. Milward made as much as twenty-two shillings a head of his best lambs, and twenty shillings of his worst, which in Sir William's eyes emphasised the importance of keeping to good breeds. His nephew James West had been ill with English cholera, but was then recovered. Mr. and Mrs. William Denne, her parents (Major and Mrs. Orme) and sisters had just arrived at Hastings for a visit.

Soon afterwards Sir William rejoined the party at Seal for a few days, and then returned to superintend matters at home, whence he writes on 4th November. A curious incident befell him on his return. "Two gentlemen got upon the coach at Tunbridge, who smoked their cigars and were both very civil ; one of them amused me much by remarking to his companion, what a striking likeness there was between me and a gentleman they had dined with on the preceding day ; his companion concurring in this observation, the former asked me if I was related to Mr. Lozet of Town Malling. I assured him I was not. This little incident entertained me, and I own I have some curiosity to see the person to whom I am supposed to bear so strong a resemblance." Travelling in the 'thirties was very different from what it is to-day. Either private carriages were used or the coaches. To return from Seal, Lady Ashburnham was recommended to secure a seat in the White Hastings Coach (for which she paid twenty shillings), but the place had to be taken at the office in London. This was done by Bishop, the driver, who left word at the Chequers, in Sevenoaks, whether a seat could be secured or not. When the seat was secured for certain, Lady Ashburnham was to write home mentioning on what day and at what time she would be at Fairlight Down, where the carriage would be in readiness to meet her. He continues :—

" . . . I am sorry to inform you that a new and atrocious species of depredation has occurred in the parish. Last Saturday se'ennight one of my ewes was killed, the meat cut off from the bones, and the skeleton and the skin left in the field. A few days afterwards one of Mr. Thomas Breed's sheep was destroyed in a similar manner. The Blacksmith at Icklesham (who had but five sheep) has had one of them stolen. No traces have yet been discovered of the base perpetrators. With this exception my farming affairs appear to have gone on very well. . . . John Holmes [for so many years the Bailiff] has sold 51 refuse Lambs for fourteen shillings per head, which is the highest price which I obtained for my best Lambs at Battle fair. . . ."

Sir William kept up a close fire of letters ; the next day he writes again :

" . . . I went to Hastings yesterday, and called upon Mr. William Denne, to consult with him on the best mode of opening a negotiation with Sir Edward Hamilton for the purchase of my Winchelsea estate. Mr. Denne said he was acquainted with Sir Edward Hamilton, but that Sir Edward had left Hastings, and he imagined that he was gone to London, previous to which he knew that he had been over to view my property near Winchelsea. Mr. Denne told me that there is thirty thousand pounds vested in the funds in the names of Trustees for the benefit of Sir Edward Hamilton's children ; this money Sir Edward has, for some years past, been very anxious to transfer into Land, and he prefers marsh Land. Mr. Denne added that he had some reason to believe that the trustees would not consent to any purchase which would not yield four per cent. If this is their absolute determination we shall not agree, but perhaps time has convinced them that no Land can be obtained on such terms. Mr. Denne was very friendly, and said, as he was going to town in a few days, he would call upon Sir Edward Hamilton, and ascertain whether he had any inclination to purchase my Winchelsea estate, and if that was the case he would refer him to Mr. Palmer for particulars. I accepted Mr. Denne's obliging offer, and

shall await the result ; but I fear I must not entertain any very sanguine hopes from this quarter, though I have thought it right to make the trial.

I saw my nephew James, yesterday ; he seems in much better health, and in very good spirits. He tells me that he has lately been lecturing the lower classes of the parishioners at St. Mary's on the important duty of receiving the Lord's Supper ; and with so much success that, the last time the Sacrament was administered at St. Mary, there were seventy additional communicants, chiefly from the middle and lower classes. This shows both the power and efficacy of his exhortations, and his zeal and assiduity in the cause of religion. James also says that he has brought over all the dissenters at Winchelsea, together with the principal dissenting minister, to the church by explaining to them (and explaining to their satisfaction) that there is no just and sufficient reason for them to separate from the establishment. This is a good work and does credit to his talents and activity, as well as to his devoted attachment to the cause he has undertaken to advocate. I am sorry however to add that he seems to run into great extremes, and to make Dr. Fearon of Ore his model. I believe I wrote rather too strongly in regard to poor James' health, but I had my account from Mary Holmes, who always exaggerates. . .

The Duke and Dutchess of St. Albans paid Mrs. Camac a visit for two or three days. They were received with great ceremony ; a grand party was invited to meet and entertain them ; and a band of musick was provided to play during the banquet. During the stay of their Graces at Hastings, Mrs. Camac took them in her carriage over to Winchelsea. The Dutchess was so well pleased with Hastings, that it is reported she has commissioned Mrs. Camac to engage a house for her. The Duke of Cumberland has taken two houses belonging to Mr. Thomas Breeds in Breeds' Place for the accomodation of himself, his family, and suite. The object of the Royal Duke in coming to Hastings is that his son Prince George, who labours under a serious complaint in his eyes, might have the benefit of the constant attendance of Sir Wathan Waller.

My brother John, Mrs. Ashburnham, and all their family are quite well. Mrs. John Ashburnham has lately had a Letter from her son John Piers, in which he says that he *now* likes his school very much. This is a good piece of news, and I hope will prove a prelude to improvement. . . ."

Two days later there is another long letter, in which Sir William "flings on paper anything, however trivial," he can collect, and sends it with some pheasants (shot by John Holmes), a woodcock and some soles ; also some plants, and crimson perennial stocks, the seed of which he had from Mrs. Richard Streatfield of Hever. The woodcock was the first that season shot in the neighbourhood. He says, "I see from the newspapers that the Revd. William Thursby, (who married Miss Pelham) has resigned the living of All Saints in Northampton, which is said to be worth £400 per annum. I suppose that he resigned in consequence of the Bishop of his Diocese insisting upon his residence." It is believed that such a state of affairs was by no means uncommon in 1830, though the position with regard to pluralities was improving. He says : "Give my kindest love to your dear mother, and tell her that I miss much, in an evening, our agreeable rubber of whist. When you see my Uncle Henry [Woodgate of Riverhill] give my kindest love to him, and present my best compliments to Mrs. Petley." With this parcel, he sent two sonnets to Mary Anne Humphry, of which he says :—

"I believe few authors are wholly exempt from some degree of vanity ; when I say vanity, I do not mean a puffed up and over-weening idea of their own talents and productions, but a sensibility to the voice of praise, and that throb of delight which a writer cannot fail to feel, when any portion of his writings receives the approbation of those whom he esteems. You flattered me by saying that you much valued some Letters I had written to you on Literature and the Arts. This observation has induced me to send you a specimen of my poetry in the shape of two

Sonnets. I have selected the Sonnet entitled "The Painter," because I know the interest you take in that charming art, the art of painting; and I have selected the other Sonnet, entitled the Death of the elder Pliny, because the subject was suggested to me, during a visit at Seal, by reading in your mother's Library Melmoth's translation of an epistle from the younger Pliny, in which he relates his uncle's death, and describes that dreadful, that fatal eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which overwhelmed the unfortunate cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Perhaps you will do me the favour to turn to this epistle, and see whether I have not strictly adhered to historic truth, and whether I am not fully justified in all I have asserted.

I assure you, my dear Miss Maryanne, that *it* is very dangerous to praise a poet. If you praise a portion of his verses he will *inundate* you with his productions; and if you praise his Letters, he will ruin you in *postage*. Since this Letter comes gratis, it is not liable to the latter objection; and I do not consider two Sonnets an inundation. I think, therefore, my *infliction* is very moderate. . . ."

SONNET. THE PAINTER.

Blest imitative art! (whose colours blend
In rich profusion o'er the canvas spread)
Thou raisest up or lost or absent friend,
The loved, the great, the honoured and the dead;
Invaluable the aid thy power supplies,
Which features, form, can so correctly trace,
Which bids the absent stand before our eyes,
And from the grave recalls the revered face:
Content no varnished artifice to use,
But placed in proper attitude and light,
Complacently the enamoured Limner views
The produce of his pencil with delight.
As these existence owe to him alone,
With a Creator's glow he smiles upon his own.

SONNET. DEATH OF PLINY THE ELDER.

Happy the man whose actions good and great
Are worthy record in historic page;
Happy the pen that can such deeds relate
In works the boast of each succeeding age.
But happier far is he, who both unites,
Whose rich-stored lines, bright, nervous, pure, refined,
Are the reflection of his purer mind,
Acting as nobly as he finely writes.
Such Pliny was—such traits his writings show,
Such Pliny was braving the tortured wave,
Fearless himself, but emulous to save,
Mid horrors that from fiery mountains flow.
Fame with no single marble was content,
A ruined city forms his awful monument.

On 11th November, he writes in apprehension for the health of Lady Ashburnham, who had contracted an obstinate and severe cough; he thinks the English climate in winter too cold for her, and proposes travelling to a more genial region. He announces his intention of letting his farm of Little Higham to Mr. Gutsell, a substantial farmer, of French Court in Fairlight, who offered him any rent he chose to name; this Sir William considers preferable to retaining it in his own hands. He draws a lively picture of their respective conditions. "I am glad," he says, "that your dear mother is not deprived by my absence of her rubber of whist. I often think of the dear circle at Seal, either engaged at their amusing pastime, or in pleasing,

cheerful, and enlivening conversation, while I am pacing my splendid rooms in cheerless solitude; perhaps I ought not exactly to say solitude, as *contemplation* and the *Muse* are my companions."

Sir William was doomed to many disappointments. When he writes next, on 13th November, he mentions having heard from Mr. Denne, who had called on Sir Edward Hamilton, but found him out of town. Sir Edward Hamilton was, in fact, returned to Hastings, and had despatched a confidential agent to view again the Sheep-house estate. Sir William's enquiries about Gutsell were most unsatisfactory, and revealed him as a highly irresponsible tenant; "I am become so accustomed," he says, "to these kind of disappointments that I am callous and seared to them. Perhaps after all it is best as it is; for I should have been obliged to have laid out nearly two years rent in repairs, which, although it would have been money well spent, yet it would have been a great drawback on my income for the ensuing year, which I can ill afford." Lady Ashburnham's little agricultural speculation over some runts had not met with the success anticipated. He goes on to say:

" . . . I received a note on Monday from my brother George informing me that his wife was safely delivered, on Sunday night at eleven o'clock, of a fine boy. The mother and infant are both doing well. I was glad to hear this good account, though I cannot but regret that George has so large a family.

Two melancholy occurrences have taken place on this coast, in consequence of the heavy squall of wind which set in so furiously against this squall on Saturday last. A schooner from Dartmouth foundered between Rye and Dungeness, and all on board perished, except one man who climbed up the mast, and remained there until a boat could put off to his rescue. A smuggling boat, on its passage from France to Hastings, was what the seamen call capsized, or turned over, and all the crew, including the master, were lost. The master was a smuggler, and did reside at Hollington corner. He has left a widow and six children.

A shocking event took place on Monday at Pett. A boy of about fourteen years of age hung himself in his master's oast-house. The female part of the family were engaged in washing, in which the boy had been assisting by bringing water; the boy having been missed for some time they went in search of him, and found him suspended from a beam in the oast-house, and quite dead. The cause of this rash and deplorable act cannot be conjectured. . . .

Lady Ashburnham returned a day or two later; and from this point until the end of our period the letters become very much less frequent, sometimes only one or two to one year, and sometimes none at all. The next in point of date is from Denny Ashburnham, who was about to remove from Ditchling to Catsfield.

" Ditchling Vicarage; July 19th, 1833.

Dear Brother,

I am quite uneasy at the thought of my inattention to your kind request of hearing from us on our arrival in Town, & I can conjure up but one shadow of excuse for not having so done—that is, poor George, whom I repeatedly saw, continues still so obstinately bent upon pursuing his own imprudent plans, that I had nothing to impart on that head which was likely to serve him, or afford you ye smallest satisfaction. My attempts to assist him I fear were exerted to no purpose & our meetings were generally of that unsatisfactory nature as very much to chill the spirit for social correspondence & certainly diminished the pleasure I shd otherwise have experienced while in Town. I had however several treats, both musical & pictorial,. . . . I must inform you that we leave Ditchling next Tuesday for Catsfield. I have so arranged with Mr. Ash as to reduce the expence of moving considerably; the van which takes myself family and servants to Catsfield brings Mr. Ash's family to Ditchling & we have adopted the same plan in regard to the waggon which takes our

luggage. We expect to arrive about 6 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday but Mr. Ash will not leave Catsfield before Thursday, and we shall have so much to do and arrange that I fear I shall not be able to get over to Broomham till after the 11th of August. I have much more to say upon the arts when we meet ; ye British gallery now displays a noble collection of pictures. There are three rooms, one contains those of Sir Joshua, another those of Sir Thos. Lawrence & a third those of West's. Here you have a good opportunity of comparing ye respective merits of each artist, & in my opinion the former stands pre-eminently foremost. Many of his pictures reminded me of days of yore, when painting was ye rage ; when we *all* were artists & when nothing delighted me more than to accompany my father yourself & my Brother John to ye Royal Academy.

Give our kindest remembrances to Mrs. A. & my brother John, & say I hope we shall soon see *much more* of them than we have hitherto done. We regret greatly leaving our kind neighbours, but shall be delighted to see our Relatives in the East of Sussex. I beg that Lady Ashburnham & yourself will accept everything that is kind from us, & I am your affectionate brother, D.A."

In 1833 the Ashburnhams paid another long visit to Seal ; Sir William returned to Broomham for some days to superintend, and then went back again, as in former years. Upon one of these occasions he writes in the following terms, after giving a variety of news concerning the farm and kindred subjects.

" Broomham, October 6th, 1833.

. . . As I know you like to see things kept in repair, and in nice and proper order, I have directed the park gates to be repaired, and new-painted of a dark green colour : so you see I get on by degrees. . . .

After I had despatched my letter to you by the post on Thursday, I walked over to Coghurst and found Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave Brisco at home, together with Mrs. Camac. The latter, though labouring under a bad cold, seemed in her usual high spirits and good humour. Mrs. Camac represented the Hastings races to have been very well attended ; and that not only the race-days, but that a great part of the succeeding week exhibited a continual round of gaieties. There was a Ball at the Swan ; a Ball at St. Leonards ; Mrs. Camac's grand Ball ; and a Ball given by Mrs. Burton ; together with a regatta, and a play at the theatre patronized by the Stewards of the races. The Ball at the Swan did not conclude till past four o'clock in the morning. This is much too late, it is making a toil of a pleasure. Mrs. Camac told me that she had made a delightful tour during the summer months to Cheltenham, Buxton, and Harrogate, with which she appeared to have been much pleased. The only noblemen whom I have heard of as being at Hastings are Lord Louth and Lord Elphinstone. . . ."

It would appear that the following December saw the sale of the Winchelsea estate finally arranged. Miss Humphry writes, on December 5th, 1833.

" I heartily congratulate Sir William and yourself on the prospect of a termination to your protracted and harassing anxieties, and trust the *minor* consideration of the time of taking possession will be satisfactorily adjusted. The sum obtained I hope realizes Sir William's expectation, and earnestly do I hope the sale of this property may relieve him from pecuniary embarrassment. I shall be most anxious to hear the purchase is completed ;" and again, a few days later,

" I rejoice to learn the sale of the Winchelsea property is finally arranged."

This sale should have relieved, or contributed to relieve, Sir William from his liabilities, of which, as has been said, we do not know the nature, unless they were in some way connected with the Rye harbour. In 1834 they repeated their visit to Seal, from which they returned at the end of June.

" Broomham, July 1st, 1834.

My dear Fanny,

. . . Hastings and St. Leonards have been deserted by visitors, but it is hoped they may fill towards the middle of the month. This part of the country is suffering greatly from the long continuance of dry weather, much less rain having fallen here than in Kent. The hay crops are so short that they will scarcely repay the expence of cutting, and Sir William is obliged to give up the idea of mowing more than half the meadow land which he had laid for this purpose. . . . We have had visits from several of our Neighbours since our return. Last week Mr. and Mrs. Stonestreet & Mr. & Mrs. Wynch call'd; the Family at Pett have been great sufferers from the prevailing Influenza. Mr. H. Wynch was looking very ill and had been unable to perform his clerical duties for a month; he had the Disorder in so violent a manner that he was obliged to have his Head shaved several times, & I was sorry to hear that the elder Mrs. Wynch was very unwell with a relapse of the complaint. ❧

Mr. Wallenger's intended Marriage is entirely unknown here, and not much credit is attached to the report. He has resigned the living of St. Mary's and Lord Chichester has appointed a Mr. Marychurch to succeed to the Preferment. Mr. Wallenger's departure is much lamented at Hastings. It is stated he is going abroad for the Recovery of his Health. The House he has lately built on Castledown is advertized for sale. We had a transient interview with Mrs. James West and her Daughters on Wednesday, & were happy to observe Mrs. James West looking much stronger. Mrs. James John West [this was J. J. West's second wife, a Miss Blair], and her infant are going on well. Mrs. Blair and her sisters are still at Winchelsea, but return to town in a few days. Mr. & Mrs. North have been in great affliction for the safety of their only surviving son, who had the Scarlet Fever some time ago, & the medical men were very apprehensive consumption would follow; they are now gone to Cheltenham to visit her Mother & in the hope that change of air may be of benefit to their son. Our friends at the Parsonage are all well. John is at home for his summer vacation, much grown and looking very well. Our geraniums in the Hall we found in great beauty, although they will not bear comparison with yours. . . "

The drought became more serious still; to quote the words of Sir William, " my farm and my garden are almost burnt up. There is a serious scarcity of water for the cattle. The ditches in the marshes are almost all dry; and the stock of all descriptions, belonging to various different owners, run all together. The effects of this continued drought I fear will be very calamitous." With this letter were sent some verses and two sonnets, of which the following will serve as a specimen. The other was supposed to be written on the plains of Waterloo.

" SONNET.

On the Hero of Waterloo being insulted in the streets of London.

How fickle is the favour of the crowd
 Oh! shame to Britain!—more disgraceful far
 Than all reverses of uncertain war,
 That thy base rabble should with insult loud
 Dare to assail thy Hero's laurel'd head.
 Victor renowned! for whom the hand of Fame
 Gathered at Waterloo a deathless name,
 And round his brow her freshest Laurels spread.
 Champion of England's throne! was this thy lot?
 Are noble feelings changed to ravings vile?
 Has generous Gratitude forsook our Isle?
 Can Wellington and Glory be forgot?
 Shall he, who (doubtless) Gallia's fury braved,
 Be hooted in the land his matchless valour saved?

Though nothing could divert the Duke from his purpose, these insults were nevertheless keenly felt. When the windows of Apsley House overlooking the Park were broken by the mob, he put up iron shutters which were never once removed till his death. With these verses was sent a "floreale letter" to Miss Humphry, deploring the effect of the drought on his garden: speaking of his brother's family, he says:

"My brother Denny, Mrs. Denny Ashburnham, and his two daughters spent a week with us lately, and during their stay furnished us with a rich musical treat. Denny fancied that he had, in some measure, lost his voice, but from experiment I am warranted in asserting that his voice is as sweet, as melodious, and as powerful as ever. In taste, feeling and expression he never, I think, appeared to greater advantage. Mrs. Denny Ashburnham possesses a fine voice; her lower and middle tones are remarkably good, but some of her upper notes are rather harsh: she is sensible of this defect, and is much improved in modulating her voice so as to correct this imperfection. After a time I am convinced she will sing admirably, and I think we shall soon meet with few Ladies, amongst our acquaintance, who will surpass her in this delightful science. Denny's daughter Mary is grown quite a tall girl. She exhibits some prospect of singing; but at her early age it is impossible to form any judgment. They speak very highly of their kind neighbours General and Mrs. Pilkington, whose daughters are most agreeable companions to my young nieces."

The time had nearly arrived for the settlement of the Winchelsea estate sale, of which Mr. Herbert Curteis was the purchaser. A strict system of economy was established and maintained at Broomham, until the pecuniary troubles were over. Entertaining was severely restricted, and prudent measures of a like nature were adopted. It is not plain what was the "heavy loss" referred to in the following letter; possibly it was the bad price realized by the sale of land.

"Broomham, Septbr 1st, 1834:

My dear Fanny,

... Sir William had a Letter from Mr. H. Palmer on Saturday, when he learnt for the first time *officially* that Mr. Herbert Curteis is the actual purchaser of the Sheep house estate. Several exceptions have been taken to the title, some of which have been got over, and we trust no serious obstacle presents itself to prevent it being *paid for* at the specified time, which is now fast approaching. Mr. Palmer is now at Brighton. I shall be truly thankful when Sir William is able to get an arrangement of his affairs, but know by experience that all matters *where law is concerned proceed very slowly*. We think it favourable Mr. H. Curteis having avowed himself to be the purchaser, which we suppose he avoided doing till he was satisfied as to the title. Sir William presided at the Dinner for the Society of promoting Christian Knowledge on Friday last, and was gratified by the manner in which he was supported. I had a kind note from Mrs. Mackenzie who is staying at Iden and intends favouring us with a morning visit the end of next month. Julius Nouaille was here one day last week. I was glad to hear from him a good account of his friends in Kent. . . ."

The next letter, from Lady Ashburnham, dated 5th November, 1834, contains a description of the Duchess of Kent's visit to St. Leonards:—

☛ "The Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria arrived at St. Leonards yesterday; last week it was intimated to Sir Willm that the Corporation of Hastings attended by the whole neighbourhood intended meeting their Royal Highnesses, and escorting them through Hastings to St. Leonards. Flies not being *deemed admissible*, Mr. & Mrs. Ashburnham offered us seats in their carriage, and we accompanied them to join the procession. The Town of Hastings made every effort to demonstrate their Loyalty on the occasion. A triumphal arch formed of evergreens &c was erected at the Hare & Hounds, where the jurisdiction of the corporation commences, & the place fixed on for the reception of the Royal Party. They came

from Tunbridge Wells, lunched at Battle Abbey, & their arrival about three o'clock was announced by the firing of canon, ringing of Bells, & the huzzaing of an immense concourse of persons. The Royal carriages were attended from Battle by a large party of Sussex gentlemen and yeomen, all well mounted, and received on their arrival by the Corporation and resident Gentlemen of Hastings on Horseback; the carriages afterwards fell into the Procession and the Pedestrians followed. The Town of Hastings was richly decorated with evergreens, interspersed with every description of flowers that the season could supply, & Flags & Banners with appropriate inscriptions were waving in all directions, indeed I think the Royal Party could not fail of being gratified by the high degree of Loyalty and good feeling evinced on the occasion. I wish my dear Fanny you could have been present, I assure you it was a most gratifying spectacle; I could hardly have supposed this part of Sussex could have produced such an immense concourse of persons. Before I quit the subject I must not omit to mention, that we had a *most gracious curtsy* from the Duchess of Kent & the young Princess as the carriage slowly passed the window where they had alighted at St. Leonards. I am told a most beautiful display of fireworks & a splendid illumination took place at St. Leonards last night, indeed all orders appeared most anxious to testify their loyalty & attachment to the Throne.

Mrs. North has lately lost her mother, her eldest brother Sir William Marjoribanks died a short time previously. An extraordinary mortality has taken place in her Family, six members of which have departed this life within the last year. . . .

On 14th February, 1835, Mrs. Humphry died at the advanced age of 84 years. Mary Anne Humphry's health necessitated her living in London, under more adequate medical control than could be exercised over her by her family, and Miss Humphry was left alone at Seal. Under the circumstances, it was decided that she should take up her abode at Broomham, whither she removed with a good deal of her furniture, and, what was more precious to her, her plants. From that time until her death, Broomham was her home, and the house at Seal was let.

Lady Ashburnham writes in May to her sister, and the letter is addressed to her at Mrs. Benham's, 9, Alexander Square, Brompton.

" Broomham, May 14th, 1835.

My dear Maryanne,

Not having had the satisfaction of hearing from you since Fanny's arrival here, I purpose addressing a Letter to you hoping it may find you improving in health and more comfortable in your present abode. I earnestly hope as the season advances, and you become more settled in your habits, that you will find yourself much better, and more equal to meet the little difficulties we must all have to encounter in this world. You are aware that this is a most trying period of the year for Invalids, and you must look forward with hope that after a time your health will be altogether renovated, & that you will again enjoy with a thankful mind the blessings of life. We thought Fanny looking poorly on her first arrival, which was to be expected after all the harass & fatigue she has had to endure; we have little variety for her at present, but she amuses herself with tending her plants which are arranged in different parts of the House; they have been considerably checked by removal from the green-house to a colder climate at so early a period of the year. After her walk with you in Kensington gardens, she was astonished to find vegetation here so backward.

. . . John West came from Tunbridge and spent the day with us yesterday; he returned early this Morning as he is to join his Regiment in a few days. He gives a good account of all his Family with the exception of his sister Fanny who has been a great Invalid during the Spring. Alicia accompanied Mr. & Mrs. Camac, who were staying at the Postern at Easter, to a Ball at Maidstone with which she was highly delighted, having the gratification to dance with several *military Beaus*. John West is become much more conversible from having had the advantage of a more extended intercourse with society. Mr. & Mrs. James John West are still absent from Win-

chelsea & their poor little Boy continues very unwell. The death of Mr. Yates of Fairlawn took place about three weeks since. His Loss is deeply regretted ; the Parish of Shipbourne have put themselves in mourning and the gentry of the neighbourhood attended the Funeral. We are told that Miss Yates and Mr. & Mrs. Park are to be resident at Fairlawn.

We hear Hastings and St. Leonards are deserted by company ; both Places have been full during the Winter. The buildings at St. Leonards are re-commencing on a large scale. I think I informed you of the death of our old neighbour Mrs. Francis Millward, and that she had left the bulk of her property to Mrs. Millward for her life. The first Horticultural meeting for the season took place at Battle last Friday ; it was but thinly attended, most of the resident gentry being at this season in London. The Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria are become the Patroness & the Vice-Patroness of the Society. . . .”

There is a postscript added by Miss Humphry :—

“ My dear Maryanne, I had the satisfaction of finding Sir William and Julia quite well on my arrival here, and was fortunate in having pleasant companions in the coach, which beguiled the distance from London. . . . I have called on the Miss Kays at their pretty cottage with Sir William and Julia, and have seen Mr. and Mrs. Ashburnham and their beautiful group of children several times. Sir William has kindly assigned me a piece of ground for Flowers, and I renew my favourite amusement with pleasure. I do not make more particular enquiries respecting St. Leonards till we hear from you ; Julia thinks you would not like it under *present circumstances*, destitute of company, and constant noise from the buildings going forward. . . .”

In August Mr. and Mrs. Denny Ashburnham passed some time at Broomham. He was by that time well settled at Catsfield, and had been taking duty at Hove, where he became acquainted with the curate there, Mr. Snowden, an old Tonbridge School Boy. Mr. and Mrs. John Ashburnham and their two daughters, Fanny and Honor, had been staying at Catsfield during the summer, “ one of the old fashioned cricket-playing summers, returned after long absence, bringing to mind Thomson’s beautiful poem on this lovely season,” as Denny Ashburnham describes it.

In December, 1835, Sir William and Lady Ashburnham visited their Kentish friends. Lady Ashburnham, describing the event to her sister, says :

“ We had the satisfaction of finding our friends at the Castle well on our arrival, & I have had the pleasure of seeing several of our old Tunbridge friends. To-day we have been to Pembury, & found Mrs. S. Woodgate at home, in excellent spirits and looking better than I have seen her for some time. She made many kind enquiries after you, & hoped you would pass a little time with her previous to your return into Sussex. We afterwards called on Lady Hardinge, & were gratified by having an opportunity of seeing Bounds, which is an excellent House, fitted up in a very handsome manner. We are to attend a little dance at Mr. F. Woodgate’s to-morrow Evening, & it is our intention to return to Broomham on Friday. I am happy to hear of Miss M. Crichton’s intended marriage. Pray give our kindest regards to Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille, Peter & Anne.”

In February, 1836, Sir William found it necessary to consult Mr. Palmer upon some very complicated accounts ; it would seem that they related to the affairs of Cheyney’s Icklesham Charity, which had been allowed to stand over for very many years, with results that may easily be imagined. The difficulty arose, in part, over a feoffment. It was suggested by Mr. Palmer that the parish of Icklesham should give a piece of land in lieu of the land in question ; and that if they had none, that Sir William should sell them a portion of the Smuggler’s field (*giving* he declared to be quite out of the question).

Sir William writes from Mr. Palmer's house :—

“ Upper Wooburn Place. (Feb. 5th)

Tuesday nine o'clock in the afternoon.

My dear Julia,

After a most disagreeable journey, through snow sleet and rain, I arrived between seven and eight o'clock yesterday afternoon in Wooburn Place where I received a most kind and cordial welcome from our friends the Palmers. . . . Notwithstanding his indisposition, Mr. Palmer very willingly entered into the business which brought me to town, and we have been employed this morning in endeavouring to arrange the charity concerns, but we have not yet completed our task. Even Mr. Palmer found it very difficult to make a satisfactory arrangement, from the complexity of the details. Mr. Palmer thought the manner in which I had drawn up my paper of accounts was objectionable, though the mode which he has adopted is not materially different from mine in the general result. I have the pleasure to state that Mr. Palmer tells me that the fifty pounds bequeathed by the late Mr. Bradshaw now stands in the three per cent consols, and has never been drawn out, as I was apprehensive, through mistake, it might have been. This discovery will be a saving to me of fifty pounds which I was afraid I should have had to have paid in addition to the arrears of rent. It is a great consolation, likewise, to me to reflect that it is now proved that my father had not acted irregularly or incorrectly in this business. As it is scarcely possible that our accounts can be so matured and methodized as to be in a state to be laid before Mr. Hume before Saturday or Monday next, I write to say that you must not expect me at Broomham till Tuesday next. Whenever I do come I shall probably travel by the Regulator or blue Hastings coach which leaves the Bolt in tun in Fleet Street at ten o'clock in the morning, and reaches Hastings about seven o'clock in the evening.

I called in Southampton Row on your sister Mary Ann this morning, and found Capt. and Mrs. Thomas with her who were very civil and polite. Mary Ann said she was well, and I hope she is so ; but I thought she looked pale and dejected. As Capt. and Mrs. Thomas were present she did not say a word about her present residence which I think she would have done had she liked it. She said she should write to you in a day or two. She seemed much pleased with my present of the Keepsake. I called this morning upon Mr. Robert Hare at Coutt's Banking house, and paid him the money for the wine ; and he gave me the receipt for it. I enquired after Mrs. Robert Hare and the young people, and I was glad to find that they were all well. I gave Mr. Hare the letter for his wife with which I was entrusted. He was much concerned to hear of your sister Fanny's illness. [Mrs. Hare was the widow of William Ozias Humphry, Lady Ashburnham's brother].

Probably you have learnt from my brother John that I was not able to get an inside place in either of the early coaches ; I was therefore obliged to wait for the ten o'clock coach which made me late in town. When at Hastings, having a quarter of an hour to spare, I called upon Mr. and Mrs. Brisco who were at breakfast ; I was glad to find Mrs. West very composed and looking very well. Mrs. Brisco told me she was in hopes that she had quite got rid of her lameness. . . . ”

On the back of this letter is written in pencil, in Lady Ashburnham's writing, “ The last received from Sir Wm. Ashburnham by his wife, never leaving home again unaccompanied by her. He departed this Life March 21st, 1843.”

In the exhibition at Somerset House in May, 1836, appeared a painting (No. 180) “Broomham Park, J. Thorp. Beneath their shade the bleating flocks repose.” Denny Ashburnham says, “ This picture escaped my notice, however I shall have an opportunity of seeing it to-morrow. To render this picture most interesting, the Baronet should be introduced in the attitude of exclaiming in fine poetical phrenzy, ‘ ye woods & wilds whose melancholy shade ’ &c.”

In the following November, the Rev. Thomas Harvey, Vicar of Cowden, applied to Sir William for assistance in increasing the accommodation in Cowden church. It must be remembered that Lady Ashburnham and her sisters owned the Moat, Cowden, and that the Ashburnhams were interested in the parish, as being among the principal landowners. Sir William regrets his inability to assist; in the course of the letter he says:

"In the church at Guestling, (the parish in which I reside) I have a side chancel which is my private property, but in which there are no seats. As there is a great want of accommodation for the parishioners of Guestling, I have for years had it in contemplation to erect pews or benches in my chancel, and then to give up the pews now occupied by my family and dependents to others."

In December, Lady Ashburnham writes to Mary Anne Humphry, at 4, Kensington Crescent:—

"... I am happy to tell you that poor little Honor Ashburnham is better, altho' she is still confined to her Bed, and it is feared she will be a great Invalid for some time, but it is hoped she will ultimately recover. Mr. Ashburnham went to Town on Saturday to bring Anchitel from School for his Xmas Holidays. Our neighbour Mr. Kay is just returned from a *continental tour*; he has visited Paris and the Netherlands, and was prevented prosecuting his journey into Greece from apprehensions of the cholera, having arranged a plan for travelling in the suite of King Otho on the occasion of his Marriage. Mr. Prout the celebrated artist has taken a House at Hastings (one of those in the Paragon Buildings) and intends making it his permanent abode. He is said to be much out of health and hopes the mild climate of the place will be useful to him. We understand Mr. Palmer is to be Sheriff for the County of Sussex the ensuing year: his son Mr. George Palmer [who seems to have been curate under Mr. Wynch] is to act as Chaplain on the occasion. Mrs. West is intending to pay Mrs. Nouaille a visit early in January previous to taking a Residence at Hastings. I was happy to hear from Fanny [who had just returned from a visit to Mary Anne Humphry] a good account of Mrs. Hare, Julia and her brothers, and should be glad to find that Richard had a permanent engagement. We are happy to hear that James West's health is improved since his Residence at Southborough. We have completed the purchase of the Poney Phaeton and think it will prove an accommodation here, but do not intend to use it till the return of Spring. . . ."

It is evident that, since Denny Ashburnham's removal to Catsfield, the brothers obtained much more of each other's society, and several letters of invitation are extant. Denny Ashburnham's letters are noticeable for the frequent quotations they contain, chiefly poetical, but sometimes extracts from prose writers. In the spring of 1837, he writes from Catsfield Rectory:—

"We called on Mrs. J. Dugdell on the 7th [April] & were rejoiced to find that her little Daughter Caroline had received so much benefit from the sea air. We expect to see them some morning should the weather permit. J. Dugdell has written me a long and interesting Letter on the subject of his future intended movements relative to the health of his daughter. His present plan is to leave England early in the ensuing Autumn, visit the South of France, Italy, Switzerland, and the Rhyne. You, I know, are not of a wandering disposition. I am, in a restricted sense of the word. Though perfectly contented, though *more* than happy in my present beautiful retreat, yet still I should be well pleased to take a wider view of this delightful world, from which the eye of Reason and of Christian faith looks upwards to the promised land.

... Only think of little Fanny's sudden flight to school! I most sincerely hope it will be attended with every wished-for good anticipated by Mrs. Ashburnham and my brother Rector. . . ."

Writing next year, he describes the arrangements made for the commutation of Tithe at Ditchling :

“ The Land owners have enter'd into a resolution to give me a rent charge of £210 pr ann: that is, they have agreed to raise the tithes £18 7/- & to allow £39 13/- as the average sum for poor rates. I hope my brother John will consider this arrangement satisfactory. I am glad to hear my brother John has settled the question of tithes with his Parishioners at Pevensey to his satisfaction ; and knowing that he is now in Town, perhaps you will favour me by informing him on his return how I have managed with the Land owners at Ditchling. Owing to the death of Mr. Billingham the Catsfield tithes business is postponed.”

He goes on to state that Mr. Wharton, his curate at Ditchling (for it must be remembered that he held both livings), owing to ill health had resigned, which he and the parishioners esteemed a very great loss. He requests to know if his brothers have in view any one to whom they would wish the appointment to be offered. This is the last letter of Denny Ashburnham's that remains.

Miss Humphry in February, 1837, describes the Nouailles' visit to Mrs. West at Hastings, and goes on to say :—

“ Mr. and Mrs. Denny Ashburnham spent a morning here the early part of last week, and are to make their long promised visit with their young people the 6th day of March, when Fanny Ashburnham is to pass the week here to meet her cousins. Mrs. D. Ashburnham brought Sir William two beautiful water-coloured paintings from her sister ; they are original compositions, and the designs and execution evince much talent in the artist. Sir William's last letter from his sister stated they were all recovering from Influenza ; you will be glad to hear that John West is made a lieutenant, he has been very fortunate in succeeding so early to promotion. Lady Ashburnham received a long letter from Mrs. Hare a few days ago ; I sincerely hope the engagement entered into for Frederick may prove advantageous. I wish some employment could be found for poor Richard. . . . Sir William has resumed his evening reading, which is very delightful to Julia and myself. Mrs. Allnutt is prevented coming to Hastings by the indisposition of Maria, who has been very poorly for some time. Mrs. Nouaille's visit is not to exceed a fortnight. She has promised to pass a morning here before she leaves the neighbourhood. We hear Mr. John Thompson is returned to England and that he is performing the Duty at Meopham as Curate, for which his Creditors allow him a hundred a year. . . .”

On 15th August she writes again :—

“ I should have given you a line before had we not been a good deal engaged the last few days. Sir William and Ly. Ashburnham request me to say with their kind love that it will be perfectly convenient, and they shall be most happy to see you on Wednesday the 23rd inst. They will send their poney carriage to the Hare and Hounds, Fairlight, on that day to meet you, and convey you and your servant to Broomham. We are going to-morrow to Catsfield to pass a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Denny Ashburnham and return on Saturday.

Notwithstanding the long drought there was an abundant and beautiful display of flowers at the Battle show; Sir William was *quite triumphant*, having four first rate amateur prizes assigned him, for the *best* Boquet, the *best* geraniums, the *best* Perennials, and the *best* Pinks. His basket-boquet was much admired and certainly was the prettiest thing in the room. I *hide my diminished head*, only coming in for one prize for the *second* best geraniums. . . . We had a delightful visit to Mrs. Mascal, who entertained us in a most kind and hospitable manner. She recollected your having made her a morning visit, and desired her kind compliments to you. Mrs. Corbet is shortly to be united to Sir Archer Croft, a son of the late Physician of that name. The Marriage is to take place at Tunbridge Wells, and Miss Corbet and Anne Nouaille are to be the Bridesmaids. The Nouailles hope to pass the month of

September at Hastings, but as the period of their visit depends on previously settling for the sale of their property, I fear the *procrastinations of the Lawyers* may defer it beyond the time they anticipate. Mr. and Mrs. James John West have a sweet lively good-humoured little boy, a pretty child, and at present perfectly healthy. . . .”

On Mary Anne Humphry's return, Lady Ashburnham writes :

“ Broomham, Oct. 15th, 1837.

. . . We have heard no tidings of you since your arrival at Tunbridge ; and hope you found Mr. & Mrs. Francis Woodgate and their Family well, and have no doubt but you received and communicated much Pleasure by a renewed intercourse with your old Friends. I am sorry to say that Mrs. Ashburnham has been very unwell since you left us ; she found her Lodging at Hastings small and inconvenient, and returned home in consequence sooner than she intended. Bathing has proved so beneficial to Honor that it has again induced them to take apartments in Brunswick House, of which they took possession on Thursday last. We shall be very glad to hear from you, how you found Mrs. West and the young people at Tunbridge Castle. Miss Curteis of Sevenoaks is going to be married to Mr. Cox, a promising young clergyman of good Family ; he has been curate to her Father for some time, and has now obtained another engagement. Lord Camden and Lady Georgina Pratt have this autumn been making a tour in Wales. Sir William had a most agreeable visit to Ashburnham ; he met a Party of 12 gentlemen including Ld. Ashburnham and his Brother, Sir Charles Lamb, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Danby, the two late Conservative Candidates for East Sussex. He slept at Ashburnham and spent the following day with his brother at Catsfield. . . .”

Miss Humphry writes on 30th November, 1837.

“ . . . Our Greatness friends left Hastings on Thursday last, all much pleased and benefited by the excursion, indeed Mr. Nouaille's health derived so much advantage that Mrs. West thinks it likely they may be induced to come again early in the spring. Mr. John Woodgate [of Stonewall] arrived the day of their departure, so that Mrs. West is not left alone. Since you heard from us last we have dined at Beauport with a very gay party, consisting of Lady Charlotte & Ly. Maria Seymour, daughters of the Duke of Somerset—the elder sister is one of the ladies in attendance on the Queen Dowager—Ly. Jane Hamilton (a relation of Ly. Montgomerie), Ly. Webster, Mr. and Mrs. Wastel Brisco, Mr. Greville, Mr. Rush, & ourselves. It was a very handsome entertainment ; Ly. Montgomerie is very agreeable at the head of her table, & extremely affable and condescending to all her guests. Mrs. Ashburnham returned home on Thursday last. Dr. Davis, the domestic physician to the Queen Dowager, has seen her and concurs with Mr. Watts in his opinion of her case. They thought the air of Hastings too relaxing & recommended her return home. . . .”

Lady Ashburnham writes on 15th March, 1838 :—

“ . . . I am truly concerned to inform you that poor Mrs. Ashburnham continues in a very precarious state ; she sometimes considers herself better but I fear no real improvement has taken place in her health. We visit her frequently, and tho' at all times she is not equal to conversation, yet she derives comfort from hearing us read to her ; she frequently enquires after you and is much obliged by your kind remembrance of her. The children are all recovered from the hooping cough, but I am sorry to say that Lawrence is in a very delicate state of Health ; the medical men have hitherto been unable to discover the nature of his complaint.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Woodgate [he was in the War Office, and was a younger son of W. F. Woodgate of Summerhill ; his wife was daughter of Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove, and sister of Mrs. Musgrave Brisco] passed a few days at Coghurst soon after their marriage. We had the pleasure of dining there to meet them. The Bride was very agreeable and appeared to great advantage in a rich white silk dress handsomely trimmed with Blond. We were glad to have an opportunity of renewing our acquaintance with the Bridegroom, who appears an amiable pleasing young

Man. They have been making a tour of visits, passing a few days with many of their Relatives. They intend residing in the Tower; Mr. F. Woodgate has engaged a Residence for three months, and at the expiration of this term he hopes to succeed to an official Residence. Mrs. Brisco has been suffering from a severe cold accompanied with Inflammation in one of her eyes, which she attributes to attending her sister's wedding during the severe weather, but is now well again. Mrs. Allnutt & Mrs. Nouaille have each been passing a short time with Mrs. West at Hastings; we had the gratification of meeting the three sisters at Coghurst. Mrs. Nouaille gave a good account of Mr. Nouaille, Peter, and Anne; she lamented the shortness of her stay and the inclemency of the weather prevented the possibility of calling on you during her stay in London. . . . We hear from Mrs. Nouaille that Mrs. Palliser is this year to visit her Family, Fanny hopes to be fortunate enough to meet her. Capt. & Mrs. J. Woodgate are also to visit their respective relatives this summer. . . . I heard from Mrs. West lately, our Friends at the Castle are all well. John West's Regiment is ordered to Halifax, and he likes his destination very much."

The next letter, dated 13th April, announced the dissolution of Mrs. Ashburnham. Miss Humphrey writes:—

"You are aware that poor Mrs. Ashburnham's health had been gradually declining since the Autumn, and for some time past all hope and expectation of her recovery was at an end. Under these circumstances it will lessen your regret to learn that it pleased God to remove her to a more durable state of existence on Wednesday last. During her long illness she had every alleviation that human skill could afford, and was soothed and gratified by the unremitting attentions & consideration of Mr. Ashburnham to her comfort. Fanny [Ashburnham] returned home two days ago. Mr. Ashburnham is deeply affected but derives comfort from having his young people around him, who I am happy to say have all regained their health. Julia has of late been much occupied in attentions to our deceased relative, and since the event in giving necessary orders.

. . . Mr. and Mrs. Brisco went to Town on Tuesday last; they intend coming down for a week or ten days after the middle of May to see their garden and inhale a little country air. Mrs. West leaves Hastings on the 21st inst. and stays with her friends in Kent till the return of Mr. & Mrs. Brisco to London when she is to accompany them and pass the month of June in the Metropolis. Miss M. A. Molyneux is staying at Winchelsea; Mr. James [John] West brought her to call here on Monday last, we were all much struck by her resemblance to her sister the late Mrs. West, and I do not know when I have seen so handsome and agreeable a young woman. You will be glad to hear Sir William has lately been exercising his poetic talent by adding considerably to the number of his Sonnets, many of which are happy effusions of his muse. About six weeks since Mrs. Mackenzie surprised all her friends by giving birth to another son. Miss Lamb's marriage is expected shortly to take place, and Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie and all their young people are to be present at the wedding. Mrs. Milward called here last week to invite us to be present at the laying of the first stone of a new Church to be erected on the Barracks ground near Hastings; the mournful event at the Parsonage of course prevents our witnessing this interesting ceremony. Mrs. Milward accompanied by her sister Mrs. Holmes & her family & young Mr. Milward are intending to make an extended tour on the Continent during the ensuing autumn & winter. I am sorry to hear you have sustained so many losses in your garden. . . ."

The confined space at our disposal renders it impossible to transcribe the kind and sociable letters in full, which is the only way of expressing the generous sympathy and good feeling that runs throughout. Almost as many little gifts and packages passed between the three sisters as letters; visits were frequently exchanged; and nothing was wanting to complete the harmonious circle. Every letter refers to the garden, the favourite subject of correspondence; and their zeal in this direction was equalled

by their knowledge. From the next letter, dated 24th July, 1838, we learn that Miss Humphry took no fewer than five prizes at the Horticultural Show (namely, for the best green-house plants, calceolarias, pinks, perennials, and the second best geraniums) ; and Sir William was nearly as successful in his exhibits. Miss Humphry adds :—

“ Mr. & Mrs. Brisco came to Coghurst last week, and attended the wedding of their friend Miss Elliot with Mr. James, which took place at Ore Church. Mr. James succeeds Mr. Wharton to Mr. Denny Ashburnham's curacy of Ditchling, and thither the Bride & Bridegroom repaired after their marriage. If the weather is fine we are to drink tea at Coghurst to-morrow evening. I believe Mrs. West is with Mrs. Nouaille, probably you have either seen or heard from her yourself.

Mr. and Mrs. Denny Ashburnham and their young people passed the week before last at Broomham, they all desired their kind love to you, and begged me to say the distance prevented their young people visiting you before they left London. Ly. A. invited Fanny and Honor Ashburnham to join the party, and the youthful cousins enjoyed each others society exceedingly. A Museum for natural history is about to be established at Hastings, and a room for this purpose is erecting in George Street on a portion of the site of the old workhouse. Mr. North has presented his collection of stuffed animals and beautiful Indian birds to the Institution. You may perhaps recollect our passing a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Micklethwait at Coghurst last Christmas. Mr. Micklethwait's name appears in the new list of Baronets. We hear he is promoted to this distinction for personal service rendered to her Majesty when she was staying at St. Leonards. She was driving in a carriage with the Duchess of Kent when one of the horses became restive ; Mr. Micklethwait who was near came forward, and gallantly arrested the animals at his own personal risk, and thus rescued the royal inmates from further alarm.

We dined yesterday with Mr. and Mrs. Vernon at Westfield where we met Dr. and Mrs. Birch, and spent a very pleasant day. Mr. George Palmer is returned to his old lodgings at Hastings ; he was succeeded at Pett by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wynch last week. We hear Mrs. George Wynch bore the journey better than was anticipated from her declining health and advanced period of life. Hastings is likely to be deserted by many of the resident gentry during the summer. Mr. & Mrs. Brisco are intending to visit their Property in Yorkshire, and to proceed from thence to Edinburgh before their return. Mrs. Milward is absent and intends passing the ensuing winter at Rome. Mr. and Mrs. Stonestreet and their family are about to depart on a continental tour, and Mr. and Mrs. North are going into Suffolk, and afterwards intend visiting Miss Shuttleworth's Castle and Property in Lancashire, on the occasion of her coming of age.

Mrs. Stileman and her daughters are to have a bazaar for the sale of useful and fancy articles on the 2nd of August ; it is to be held in the Ruin of the Friars, and the Profits arising from the sale to be appropriated to a clothing fund for the poor of Winchelsea. I believe little remains to communicate respecting my visit to Seal.

. . . . Our old servant John is married to one of his fellow servants ; he continues with Mrs. McCloud, and is as much in favor with his mistress as ever. I spent two days most agreeably at the Grove, and Miss Jessie was very friendly in offering me any assistance in her power. Sir Alexander was in Ireland, and not expected to return immediately. William West walked up to visit me, and passed a long afternoon at Mr. Nouaille's, and Mrs. West and her daughters met me at the Crown, Tunbridge, on my return to Broomham.”

Miss Elliot was the only daughter of Col. Elliot, of Valebrook, Hastings ; and her husband was a great friend of Henry Arthur Woodgate, at that time Curate in charge of Holy Trinity Church, Tunbridge Wells. At that period it would seem that desirable curacies were exceedingly difficult to obtain ; before obtaining Ditchling, Mr. James had for many months been fruitlessly engaged in seeking one, amongst

the offers being one from Mr. Woodgate, whom he held in the greatest respect. He describes him as "something of an oracle" at home, that is, with the James family; and a great power at Coghurst; and declares "the good word of such a man as Woodgate" to be most effectual. It is probable that he obtained Ditchling through Mrs. Brisco.

Mrs. MacLeod was formerly Miss Jane Petley (the aunt of C. C. Petley, of Riverhead, who married Ellen Woodgate), and widow of Kenneth Mackenzie, of Tarbet House, heir to the forfeited Earldom of Cromarty. She died at Riverhead in 1844, aged 86.

About a month later Lady Ashburnham writes:—

"Broomham, August 29th, 1838.

. . . Fanny has lately received two letters from Mrs. Nouaille; in the first she announced the death of our old and valued friend Mr. Whitehead. He had long survived all enjoyment of Life, therefore his release must be considered a happy translation for himself. The Livings of Kempsing and Seal have been conferred on Mr. Harwood, a friend of the late Lord Plymouth's, in consequence of a promise of long standing from his Lordship. We hear Mr. Whitehead had accumulated a large Fortune, it is said sixty thousand pounds, and that the stamp on the Probate of the Will amounts to nine hundred pounds. This large sum he has divided between his Nephews and Nieces. . . .

We have lately been passing a few days agreeably at Beauport; a large Party were staying in the House, consisting of the Countess of Mexborough and her Daughter Lady Sarah Savile, two Lady Jane Hamiltons, one a half sister of Lady Montgomerie's, the other Daughter to the late Lord Duncan. Sir Charles Lamb and Lady Montgomerie live in a very handsome style, and are very kind and hospitable to all their country neighbours. Mrs. Mascall has lately passed two days with us; she is a most estimable person and delightful companion. Notwithstanding the many sorrows she has experienced, she is very cheerful, derives much pleasure from social Interchange, and is passing a tranquil happy old age, which is cheered and enlivened by frequent Interchange with her only surviving Daughter and grandchildren. Lord Ashburnham's next Brother Coll. Ashburnham was married last week to Miss By, a young Lady of large Fortune residing in the Neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells. We have been deprived of our Carriage Horse by an accident for the last month, which is unfortunate for Sir William as he now finds walking in hot weather attended with a good deal of fatigue. However I hope in the course of a week or two we shall be restored to our locomotive powers. Mr. Schofield, Professor of Greek at Cambridge, is supplying for Mr. James West during his absence at Tunbridge, and is residing in his house at Winchelsea. Mr. Schofield is a man of high character and attainment, and is considered the best preacher in the university of Cambridge.

Did you see by the paper last week the marriage of Mrs. Morrison, "formerly a Miss Carnel," to the Earl of Carnwath? This gentleman is a Scotch Peer seventy years of age with a numerous Family, and she is become *his third wife*. What an extraordinary elevation some of the members of this Family have attained! During our stay at Beauport I attended an Archery meeting at St. Leonards with Lady Montgomerie and her Party; I had the Pleasure of meeting Dr. Knox & all his Family. They have been at Hastings for some time & have paid us a visit."

In October, Frederick Humphry, who was to establish himself at Rotherfield, paid a short visit to his aunt at Broomham; his time was passed in exploring the home domain and visiting Hastings, where they met Mr. Nouaille. He impressed his relatives with his strong resemblance to his father. On 5th November, Lady Ashburnham writes:—

" . . . We have been to Hastings several times lately to visit our relatives in York Buildings; dear Mrs. Nouaille is looking quite as well as last year. Mr. Nouaille is under the medical care of Mr. Duke, & considers himself benefited by his

advice, altho' I fear no great permanent improvement can be expected from his present state. Anne [Nouaille] passed a few days with us last week ; she is very cheerful and agreeable, and told us how much pleasure your late visit to Seal had afforded your old friends and Neighbours. We dined at Coghurst last Thursday and met Mrs. Camac, Mrs. Nouaille, and Mrs. West with a small circle of friends, and had a social pleasant visit. Mrs. Camac is going to Paris about the middle of this month, she is to be escorted thither by Mr. Wastel Brisco. I think her gay Balls & parties will be a loss to the young people of the Neighbourhood.

I do not know whether I informed you that Mr. Ashburnham has decided for his eldest son to enter the Army, and has lately made an application to Lord Hill to have John Piers' name placed on the army list, which his lordship readily agreed to, but as some time must probably elapse before John obtains a commission, he is to be placed at an educational seminary to learn military Tactics & the modern languages. The paper last week announced the death of our old friend Mr. Alderman Atkins ; he had been in a declining and most melancholy state for some time previous. Mrs. G. Wynch died at Pett Rectory on Tuesday last ; she had been confined to her Bed and in a most exhausted state for many months which will doubtless reconcile her son and Daughter to her departure from hence. Sir William is gone to Catsfield to spend the day with Mr. & Mrs. D. Ashburnham, not having seen or heard anything of them for some time. Mr. & Mrs. James West are returned to Winchelsea, we intend paying them a visit the first fine day. We hear the Infant is a charming child. John Petley has obtained his commission, and is preparing to join his Regiment at Dublin in about a month. Sir Charles Lamb & Lady Montgomerie left Beauport on Thursday last for the continent, with the intention of passing the winter months."

The next year Miss Humphry writes :—

“ Broomham, Feby 4th, 1839.

. . . I am happy to say we are all well ; Sir William had a cold a few weeks since which prevented his dining at Ashburnham, but it was not of long continuance. Sir William and Lady Ashburnham beg me to thank you for your kind Invitation ; they hope to be in London in the course of the spring, but at present are unable to say what may be their plans for that period, At all events they depend on seeing you at Broomham in the summer. I have written to Mr. Palmer to enquire whether we could make a satisfactory title for a Purchaser to the real Property bequeathed to us under the will of our late Father ; as his reply is not quite to the *point* I shall write again & therefore will not enter further upon the subject at present. . . .

The young people at the Parsonage are all well. Fanny and Honor have passed a few days here several times during the Christmas holidays. Fanny is gradually losing her shyness and is altogether much improved, her *appearance* is quite that of a woman and she is rather taller than Lady A. The little boys all dined here lately, & I wish you could have witnessed their enjoyment in *contesting* a pool of commerce. Lady Ashburnham corresponds with Mrs. James West, and yesterday I received a social letter from my namesake giving an account of a dance they have lately had at the Castle, which she states Alicia and herself to have enjoyed exceedingly. Mrs. Stephen Woodgate and four of her sons were present, & nearly 50 of their friends & neighbours, not including their own family. She mentions that Miss Bridgeman their late Governess is recently very well married to Mr. Darnell, a clergyman, who is 2nd Master at King's Colledge School.

We have not seen Mrs. West lately, but hear she continues to receive good accounts of our friends at Greatness. Mrs. Brisco's sister, Mrs. F. Woodgate, has been very unwell in consequence of taking a cold ; she is now better and gone for change of air to Mr. John Allnutt's at Clapham. I hope Richard [Humphry] will let me hear from him when his plans are matured. We hear the Sevenoaks neighbourhood has been very gay this Christmas ; the new year's ball was attended by upwards of three hundred, and there have also been several private balls in the

neighbourhood, amongst which one given by Miss Yates at Fairlawn where there were nearly two hundred persons, including the Military from the Depots of Maidstone & Chatham, and is named as having been particularly delightful. We hear Lady Georgiana Pratt attended by her nephew Mastr. Stewart was present on both occasions. Mrs. Camac is returned from France and is now at Hastings; she was followed to Paris by Mr. Lushington, a gentleman with whom she was previously acquainted at Hastings, who acquired so great an influence over her feelings that she consents to return to England for the purpose of being united to him. He was very considerably younger than herself and said to be of most objectionable character, which latter circumstance induced her brothers [Musgrave and Wastel Brisco] to interfere, and she has happily been influenced by their representations & given up an alliance that could not fail to have been productive of future sorrow and regret.

The poor of this Parish have been very much considered by their more affluent neighbours this winter. A fund has been raised in the Parish to supply them with coals at a very moderate charge. Sir Wm & Ly. Ashburnham have given excellent soup once a week for a limited time, and supply all their own labourers with flour at a very reduced price. Mr. & Mrs. Brisco have given most liberal benefactions—15 pair of Blankets to the poor of Guestling, & a liberal supply of meat & bread twice to twenty poor families of this Parish, and to double the number of the Parishes of Oare and Westfield. Mrs. Luxford is staying at Hastings in consequence of her eldest daughter being in a very delicate state of health. Mrs. Mascall lunched here one morning last week in her way from Hastings to Peasmarsh."

This letter, crossed on three sides, is followed by an equally lengthy one in April. Mr. Lushington, whose character seems to have been accurately described by Miss Humphry, obtained so great an ascendancy over Mrs. Camac, in spite of her prudent resolution, as to induce her to share her fortunes with him. Mrs. Camac had a considerable fortune of her own, in addition to what she might have received from Mr. Camac; she possessed also the valuable diamonds, which exercised a peculiar fascination over her suitor.

" Broomham, April 15th, 1839.

. . . You will be sorry to hear that John Piers Ashburnham has been very unwell, I fear he was not sufficiently careful of himself during the winter. Mr. Watts attends him and says he will require care for some time. Honor is much improved in health and her Papa talks of taking her to London to see her sister this spring. Mr. & Mrs. Brisco do not go to Town till the end of the month; they have been detained at Coghurst by the marriage of Mrs. Camac. On her return to London Mr. Lushington renewed his addresses, and his persuasions overcame her more prudent resolves. On the 10th of this month she became Mrs. Lushington and therefore it only remains for her friends to wish she may not have cause to regret this ill-advised union. We quite enjoy being restored to pedestrian exercise; I have taken several pleasant walks lately and visited our friends at Coghurst, Fairlight & Pett, in some of which walks Lady Ashburnham has accompanied me. . . ."

Two months later John Piers Ashburnham, the ultimate heir to the baronetcy, died. His aunt, Mrs. James West, of Tunbridge, writes:—

" Tonbridge Castle, June 15th, 1839.

My dear Lady Ashburnham,

I was much shocked on Sunday last by receiving a letter from my Brother John containing the melancholy intelligence of the Death of his son. The sad event appears to have been awfully sudden & consequently must have been a most severe trial to his poor Father; his remains passed through here yesterday. Mr. West met my Brother at the Crown Hotel and he informed me he appeared in the greatest affliction. His two daughters were with him. I think there must have been a great change in poor John Piers after you left Sussex. I understand the Funeral is to take place to-morrow. . . . May I request you to favour me with a line soon as I am

very anxious to know how my poor Brother John and his family support themselves under their heavy affliction. . . I consider it quite Providential that Mrs. Ashburnham has been spared this severe pang."

This loss made Anchitel, the second son, the ultimate heir to the baronetcy. The last rites are described by Lady Ashburnham, in a letter dated 24th June :

" I must now inform you that the Interment of our poor Nephew John Piers took place on Friday last. The Funeral was strictly private. Mr. Ashburnham & all his children, with Sir William, attended as mourners, & Mr. Watts & the Servants at the Parsonage closed the Procession. Mr. Ashburnham is deeply afflicted by the early loss of his eldest son. The young people are recovering their composure, and I hope now the last duties to the departed have been performed their tranquillity of mind will gradually be restored to them."

She goes on to say, after thanking her sister for a beautiful present of millinery from Regent Street :—

" I suppose Fanny has ere this left you ; I was glad she decided on paying Mrs. Nouaille a visit, who I trust will be cheered and enlivened by her society. Julius Nouaille spent a morning here last week ; he tells us Mr. Nouaille is much better, and that Miss Nouaille is about paying a visit to Sir Archer Croft at Acton. I am told Mr. Harwood only holds the living of Seal for a few years, and that it is to be conferred on the son of Mr. Blackall, who you may remember was Tutor to the late Lord Plymouth and died early in life. Mr. Harwood, who is a man of fortune, is altering and making considerable additions to Oak Bank and rendering it *far* too considerable a Residence for the Living of Seal to support. I therefore do not despair of again seeing our old House the Residence of the Clergyman of the Parish. We hear a matrimonial engagement has taken place between Lord Amherst and Lady Plymouth, and that the marriage is to be solemnized in the course of July. Lord Amherst supported so high a character thro' Life & Lady Plymouth is so amiable that I hope the comfort of the Parties may be enhanced by the union. Lord Amherst removes to Knowle and Lord and Lady Homesdale are to reside at Montreal. It is a singular coincidence Ld. Amherst marrying two Dowager Lady Plymouths. Mr. and Mrs. Lushington are separated, Mrs. Lushington allowing him four hundred a year, on his engaging not in any way to annoy her.

It is with much concern I inform you Mr. Denny Ashburnham has been seriously ill. He is now I am happy to say much better. If the weather will permit, we intend to spend the day at Catsfield on Friday, by which time we hope to find Mr. Denny Ashburnham very much recovered. I shall be glad to hear of Ozias [Humphry's] safe arrival in *old England*, & that he is well and derived advantage and improvement from the voyage. . . ."

Meanwhile Miss Humphry had been staying with her sister in London, and with Mrs. Nouaille at Sevenoaks. There she was glad to renew her acquaintance with her old friends and revisit her former home ; she visited the Wests at Tonbridge, but finding the return coach was full, she was obliged to pass the night with the Woodgates at Ferox Hall. She says (June 29th) :—

" You see by the Paper the marriage of Lord Amherst with Lady Plymouth has taken place. The ceremony was performed at Knowle on Tuesday last by Mr. Curteis in the presence of Lord & Ly. Holmesdale, Ly. Sarah Amherst, the Marquis of Downshire, and Mr. Clive. It is said Lord & Ly. De la Ware do not like the match ; none of the family being present on the occasion appears to confirm the rumor. The work people & their families with the children of the National Schools were liberally regaled on the occasion."

On the occasion of this ceremony, Lord Amherst presented Mr. Curteis with a very handsome silver inkstand, engraved with an appropriate Greek inscription.

Miss Humphry writes on 17th July :—

“ Mr. Ashburnham is recovering his spirits and his young people are all well. Mr. Watts considers change of air and a relinquishment of professional duty for a time essential for Mr. Denny Ashburnham, in consequence of which he is gone to Ramsgate with his family for a month. Mr. George Palmer leaves this neighbourhood next week, he is anxious to obtain a curacy in London from which we conclude his union with Miss Lovell is likely to take place. Mrs. Allnutt and Maria are passing three weeks at St. Leonards ; Maria has derived so much benefit from the change of air and the advice of Mr. Duke that she hopes altogether to lose her cough before she returns home.”

She describes the flower show at Battle, where Sir William was as successful as on previous occasions. Sir William adds a postscript ; but the writing shows that his seventy years were beginning to take effect. She writes again on 27th August, 1839 :—

“ Mr. West (accompanied by his son William) has been in Town for the purpose of having the tumor under his ear extracted. Sir Benjamin Brodie performed the operation (which was a severe one) most successfully. Mr. West returned home about a fortnight since, quite as well as his family could expect after such an operation. The visit of Mr. & Mrs. J. J. West at the Castle has been prolonged in consequence of the Scarlet fever being prevalent amongst children at Winchelsea & they are unwilling to return home until the infection has quite subsided.

You will be surprized to hear that Sir Henry Hardinge has purchased South Park. It must be a most agreeable and gratifying circumstance to his family that he should fix on a Residence in their vicinity. In my account of the wedding of Miss Hardinge, I did not hear until after I wrote to you that Sir Charles [Hardinge] performed the ceremony & Sir Henry gave the bride away. A party of 50 breakfasted at Bounds on the occasion, including Lord Camden, Ly. G. Pratt, & Sir Henry & Ly. Emily Hardinge. The bride & bridegroom (*k*) are making a tour of a few weeks up the Rhine & on their return take possession of their new house in Park Terrace. What a very gay wedding was Miss Cobb's, it must have been quite a gala for the Miss Ballads. Mrs. Whitton has sold Stone Wall to Mr. Parks, said to be a gentleman of great affluence ; she is coming with her neices to Hastings for the present, and intends taking a permanent house at Sevenoaks. Mr. & Mrs. Francis Woodgate [of Falconhurst] are passing a week at Coghurst & we are going to call on them this morning. Mr. and Mrs. Lushington have *adjusted their differences* and are making a tour on the Continent with the intention of passing the ensuing winter in Italy. Many of the gentlemen in this neighbourhood intend being present at the Wellington banquet on Friday next. I heartily hope the weather may be propitious and that they may “ fill Wellington's cup till it beams like his glory.” There is in Sir William's garden a covey of 16 partridges which have been brought up there, & are so tame that they are not disposed to take their flight. The ladies in this neighbourhood are *very busy* and very active in preparing for the Fancy-fair for the benefit of an Infirmary. Our Ottomans are in progress and I hope may prove creditable to the taste & industry of the inmates of Broomham.”

The Ottomans were being worked in worsted for the Bazaar. They were very highly esteemed. Lots were drawn for Miss Humphry's Ottoman, which was secured by Mrs. Richards of Icklesham.

“ Broomham, March 20th, 1840.

“ We have not been able to make use of our open carriage much of late ; we however took advantage of a mild day last week & went to Hastings, and unexpectedly found Mrs. Nouaille with Mrs. West with whom she is passing a fortnight ; she regretted not being able to call on you during her short late visit to Mr.

(*k*) The bride was Caroline Bradford Hardinge, second daughter of Sir Charles Hardinge ; and the bridegroom the Rev. R. W. Browne, Prebendary of St. Paul's. Their son is now Vicar of Hever.

Rudge. . . . We hope you will be fortunate in letting your house : I can only say we shall be truly happy to see you at whatever period is most convenient and agreeable to you. Mr. William Streatfeild (the widower), whom you formerly remember, is going to be married to one of the Miss Larkings of Westerham, an amiable Lady, & the connexion gives great satisfaction to the Family of his former wife. Mrs. Brisco's sister Mrs. Francis Woodgate's little boy is just turned of a twelve months old, and begins to talk, and runs alone. I think you will be surprized at the growth of the young people at the Parsonage ; Fanny in appearance is quite a young Woman. Sir William I am happy to say is in very good health, but is infirm in moving ; he does not however omit taking a little exercise every fine day, and Fanny & myself have made the most of the fine weather for pedestrian excursions. . . . "

Next in date is a brief note from the Countess of Ashburnham, the first that we find preserved, accompanied by an invitation card. It is as follows :—

" My dear Madam,

Lord Ashburnham and I regret extremely that we have been hitherto prevented paying you and Sir William Ashburnham a visit, but we hope to have the pleasure of seeing you here on the 11th and that you will remain the night with us.

Most truly yours

K. C. Ashburnham.

Ashburnham Place, Sept 4. 1840."

She writes again a little later :—

" Dear Lady Ashburnham,

I received the accompanying letter yesterday, and I was about to put it in the fire, knowing nothing of the writer, when Lord Ashburnham suggested that it might be addressed to you. I therefore take the liberty of enclosing it to you. I hope you and Sir William are pretty well and have not suffered from the very cold and trying weather we have had."

The enclosed letter was from Charlotte Lachington, late C. Agote of Seal, who requested some assistance for her mother, herself, and four children ; she dilates upon the past goodness of the Humphrys at Seal, and recollects Lady Ashburnham and her sisters, when children, as " the admiration of the whole neighbourhood." The most interesting passage is, " my father had the charge of Summerhill during the Major's great alterations."

The last letter to Sir William Ashburnham happens also to be Miss Humphry's last. She was staying with Mrs. Hare.

" June 23rd, 1842.

My dear Sir,

I cannot express the pleasure the sight of your handwriting afforded me, and truly appreciate the contents of your very kind letter, which I shall preserve as a valued memorial of your kindness towards me. I regret *exceedingly* it will not be in my power to return to Broomham for the Battle horticultural show ; I shall however in *idea* partake the agreeable little excitement of preparation, and *juncy* I see the beautiful productions of your garden arranged on your hall table previous to exhibition and anticipate your floral triumphs. I hope some of the Geraniums may suspend their development untill my return, that I may have the pleasure of admiring them with you.

Yesterday Mr. Sheridan Knowles sent Mr. Hare a ticket for a Dress-box at the Hay Market Theatre, and I had the pleasure of accompanying my friends to see his new Play of the Rose of Arragon. . . . We did not, my dear Sir, forget the anniversary of Tuesday last, & drank your health, with due honors, accompanied with every due wish to yourself & yr dear companion. We were admitted to the hall of Buckingham Palace by Ld. Liverpool's tickets on Thursday last, & saw her Majesty attended by her suite go to the Drawing room. Our view was transient but never-

theless it was a gratification. I cannot conclude without expressing my grateful thanks for all yr kindness and with the pleasing hope of meeting you shortly, I am, dear Sir, yr truly affectionate

Frances Humphry."

Meanwhile Denny Ashburnham, who was ill before, steadily became worse. Mrs. Denny Ashburnham writes from No. 1, Park Village West (postmark Great Portland), on 21st February, 1842, to Lady Ashburnham on her husband's position. Mr. Ashburnham's case was hopeless, though his sufferings were likely to continue for several months. "I have still," she says, "many blessings which I thankfully acknowledge; heavy as my affliction is, it is still blended with comfort. If our dear invalid was irritable or violent perhaps he could not be with us, now I know that I have it in my power to administer to his happiness; he is always delighted to see me, and I pass a large portion of every day with him."

Mr. James, their curate in charge at Ditchling, had been supplying for them at Catsfield, and was engaged to do so till the middle of May, when Mr. Ashburnham purposed to return; and if it was found that the climate of Catsfield did not suit him, he would then resign. He was in a position of complete helplessness, and the management of everything devolved upon his wife. She writes:—

"Happily Mr. Ashburnham having always confided his affairs to me I know precisely what his means are, and it will be my great desire to keep strictly within our income. I mentioned to you that long previous to my dear husband's malady he had given me a power of attorney to receive his dividends, and hitherto the Mr. Kells have raised no objection to paying me the monies they receive; now there are no other sources from which our income is derived."

On 27th February, 1843, she writes again:—

"My dear Lady Ashburnham,

Mary wrote you word last week that her dear Papa was much worse than he had been; I grieve to say my account to-day is even worse, he is very ill, indeed in as alarming a state as it is possible. I am very unhappy about him; his entire loss of mind has for some time rendered it a most difficult thing to prescribe for him, and as he is now suffering from an internal disease which wastes his strength more than he can support by nourishment (though given every quarter of an hour) we have everything to dread. I will write again by the next post. I am, my dear Lady Ashburnham, yours most affectionately

Harriet Ashburnham."

Very soon afterwards he died, in his seventieth year. His death took place within a month of that of his brother, Sir William, whose health had been slowly breaking up; the latter died 21st March, 1843, aged 73. A considerable number of letters that were written upon this occasion have been preserved, namely, from his brother John; his sister Mrs. James West; his niece, C. M. West; Mr. and Mrs. Hare and Juliana Humphry; Mrs. Denny Ashburnham; H. Ashburnham (Mrs. George Ashburnham); Mrs. Nouaille*; and Mr. Palmer. Of these, the letter of his brother, who by the event became Sir John Ashburnham, must serve as a specimen.

"Rectory House, March 25, 1843.

Dear Lady Ashburnham,

I beg to offer you my sincere condolence on the bereavement you have sustained by the death of my poor Brother. Having myself experienced two of the greatest deprivations incident to this mortal state, be assured that I can duly appreciate & sympathize with your feelings on this mournful occasion. As soon as intelligence of the melancholy event reached me in London, I returned home by the earliest conveyance & arrived here this morning by the Mail. I trust it is almost unnecessary

to add that if I can render you any assistance my services are at your command. With kind regards to Miss Humphry believe me, dear Lady Ashburnham, your very truly

J. Ashburnham."

Sir William left his affairs in some confusion. His will, dated 24th December, 1842, declared that, instead of the jointure of £500 a year provided by the marriage settlement, Lady Ashburnham should enjoy a life estate in Broomham, the garden and Park, and the several lands and farms (including the Church Farm of 100 acres) therein named; at her death the Broomham estate was limited to his brother John for life, with a limitation to his nephew Anchitel for his life, with remainder in tail male to the sons of Anchitel. There were several limitations over in case of default.

Sir William left to Lady Ashburnham absolutely all his interest in the Moat, Cowden; Higham farm in Guestling, containing 22 acres; the contents of Broomham (except plate and pictures, which were to be hers for life only); certain Peruvian Bonds and a legacy of £1,500 in cash. He left the following legacies:—£1,000 each to his brother George Ashburnham and his sister Alicia West; £500 each to his nephew James John West, his nieces Mary Ellen and Harriet, daughters of Denny Ashburnham, and the Rev. John William Dugdale; £100 to his servant John Holmes; a year's extra wages and mourning for all the servants; £50 to each of his Trustees, John Ashburnham, George Palmer, and William Henry Palmer; and an annuity of £100 a year to his brother George for his life—£500 was left for the publication of some of his manuscripts. The residue was to be sold and applied under the trusts of the will.

It is to be feared that Sir William Ashburnham neglected to take a comprehensive survey of his property at the time of making his will, with the result that he had no adequate fund for the payment of his debts and legacies. The Peruvian Bonds at the time of Lady Ashburnham's death consisted of Bonds to the nominal value of £7,300, worth about £6,000 in cash; these however were bequeathed to Lady Ashburnham together with his household and farming effects. Apart from these, his personal estate was inconsiderable. In consequence of the variety of interests involved, it was decided to sell that portion of the estate which was unentailed. To obtain the consent of the Court to the various arrangements, a friendly suit in Chancery was commenced. The unentailed property was accordingly valued by Mr. Thomas, and upon that valuation a portion of the property was purchased by Lady Ashburnham; the advowson of Winchelsea was bought by James John West; and the rest, by far the most considerable part, was purchased by Sir John Ashburnham. The purchase was not confirmed by the Court till January, 1846, and not completed till 1848. It may be imagined that negotiations were protracted, and the expense, owing to the number of parties, for the most part represented by different solicitors, must have been enormous; but the Palmers conducted the difficult matter to a successful conclusion. The original liabilities existing on the land were paid, the debts had already been settled, and the legacies were satisfied. We believe that this suit of *Ashburnham v. Ashburnham* is a leading case in equity.

That portion of the unsettled estate purchased by Lady Ashburnham consisted of the Place Farm, comprising 155 acres, the Kitchen Wood of 39 acres, and the Bench Field Wood of 7 acres; the purchase money amounted to £4,700. Lady Ashburnham's means thus consisted of her purchase, her life estate in the settled property, £7,300 in the Peruvian Bonds, her share of the Moat Farm (worth at that time about £6,000), Higham Farm, her funds which having been settled on her marriage became by Sir William Ashburnham's death without issue absolutely vested in her and her own private fortune which was not inconsiderable. Besides this, her sister, Mary Anne Humphry, died in the same year as Sir William, by which she came in for some thousands of pounds.

A brief account of George William Ashburnham, the youngest son, should be given. In 1803 he joined the 3rd batt. Cinque Port Volunteers as Lieutenant ; but it does not seem that he followed any regular profession. His wife brought him not a penny of fortune, but a large and ever increasing family ; his own fortune, which was left him by his father and other relations, was necessarily modest, and appears to have been wasted by injudicious management. Sir William Ashburnham afforded him some assistance during his lifetime, and after his death, as has been mentioned, left him £1,000 and an annuity of £100 a year, but other help was required—and the estate was not wound up for some years.

In 1842, Lord Ashburnham endeavoured to do him some service. There is a letter of the Countess of Ashburnham, dated 25th January, 1842, requesting Lady Ashburnham to inform her of his precise position ; she replies :—

“ . . . Mr. George Ashburnham has unfortunately lost the little Property bequeathed him by his Father and other Relations by injudicious management. I have little personal knowledge of Mrs. George Ashburnham, but believe she has much to contend with & her situation to be one of great distress, arising from pecuniary involvement & a numerous family. They have five children, having lost four children. Sir William Ashburnham allows his Brother one hundred a year besides casual assistance, which is the utmost his circumstances enable him to do ; they have no other certain dependence, and I fear this sum must be very limited for the support of so large a Family. Your Ladyship kindly enquires in what manner your assistance might be useful, which induces me to take the Liberty of stating that as the Family consists chiefly of Boys, if Lord Ashburnham and yourself could kindly exert your Influence in obtaining admission for any of them into any of the charitable Institutions for the education of Youths whose Parents are in distrest circumstances, it would be conferring a very essential benefit. The eldest child is a girl, the next a promising youth of fifteen, who has a decided Talent for Drawing. Mr. Prout, the eminent artist in water colors who is resident at Hastings, has for some time kindly given him gratuitous instruction in drawing. The next son is a fine Boy of ten years of age, the other Children all Boys proportionately younger. . . . ”

A year later, George Ashburnham writes :—

“ My dear Lady Ashburnham,

I am much obliged by the receipt of your favour this morning ; in answer I am constrained to say, this long promised favour, I fear, is unavailable at present, otherwise I should be extremely happy to accept it, as I had all along set my *heart* and *mind* on hopes of some admission to this school ; but my two youngest Boys I fear are precluded, William being Eleven last summer, and John Woodgate now only just turned three years of age, the one too old and the other a very long time to look forward to. But I will not despair ! another opportunity may, and I trust will occur, in aid of my dear children's education. Trusting (as no news is good news) my Brother yourself and Miss Humphry are all well, I remain, my dear Lady Ashburnham, yours truly

6 Meadow Cotgs., Jany. 10th, 1843.

G. Wm. Ashburnham.”

Mrs. George Ashburnham writes to Lady Ashburnham, on 1st March, 1844, thanking her for some assistance and hoping that Sir William's estate will soon be wound up and the legacies and annuities paid. She says :—

“ . . . It is such an expensive time and there are Eleven to provide for every day ; it almost turns my own senses to think of it, and yet I must, as poor Mr. Ashburnham does not know what to do. . . . I have also to thank you kindly for a present of a Bible and Prayer Book to Denny [the second son, aged twelve], it was the very thing he had been wishing for and I promised him he should have one as soon as I could make it convenient. He looks at it and admires it half a dozen times a day, and says he longs for Sunday to come when he can take *his own* Prayer Book ; I have been obliged to lend him mine, and of course he values it more as a present from your

Ladyship. This is my grand wish that I may live to see my children running in the way of God's Commandment, and enabled to get their own living in that state of life in which it has pleased God to call them, *i.e.* worthy of the name of *Ashburnham*. . ."

To add to his misfortunes, sufficiently great, George Ashburnham lost his wife, and was left alone to contend with the difficulties of his position. His lamentable state may be gauged from his letter to Lady Ashburnham, dated 18th July, 1844.

" . . . I must conclude, my dear Lady Ashburnham, labouring as I have been by the *sufferance* (not the hand) of Almighty God, the most heartrending afflictions I ever experienced. I have buried four precious infants ; I have lost two dear brothers in less than three weeks ; and am now bereaved of the Partner of my bosom, the Mother of my dear children, and the *comforter* of my afflictions. Now am I left alone to a cruel world with seven children, three of which are under four years and a half old. What more cruel afflictions can be reserved for me yet, I know not, but while I live and am blessed with strength I will bear more, if greater sufferings I am doomed to."

Unfortunately he was a man of decided opinions, and would only be assisted in his own way. Lord Ashburnham was constrained at length to give up the unequal task, but through many years Lady Ashburnham extended unvarying help and kindness to the family. The children sometimes proved difficult of management, and an attempt was made, strongly against his wishes, to educate his eldest son George Percy for the Church. He had entrusted him to persons whom he afterwards imagined he had cause to distrust. "I was incautious, and too credulous ;" he says, "I had not *eaten a Pound of salt with them*, as my poor uncle Henry Woodgate had enjoined me strictly to attend to, as long as I lived." It appears however that his suspicions were quite unjustified. George Percy was very kindly treated and sent to Oxford. During this period Flora Ashburnham, the eldest child, must have been invaluable. She writes on 9th January, 1851, that her father (who was then 77 years old) had fallen down one whole flight of stairs, from which he had met with some severe bruises. The fall must have shaken him very badly ; she writes six days later, in a shaky hand :—

"Dear Lady Ashburnham,

You will be concerned to hear that my poor dear Papa expired this evening at ½ past five ; he had been sinking fast during the day & departed without one struggle. Thus afflicted I can write no more now. I propose coming to Broomham by early van to-morrow morning.

Yours very truly

(Monday Night)

Flora Ashburnham."

That year Flora Ashburnham sailed to the Cape to marry the man to whom she was engaged, Mr. Colin Campbell, a prosperous gentleman of Grahamstown. William and Denny were placed in the London and County Bank, William at Greenwich, Denny at Chichester ; in this they continued a few years, and were steadily gaining a good position for themselves and winning a way to independence, when they received a very advantageous offer from Mr. Campbell to join him in South Africa, which, as they in common with the rest of the family were endowed with remarkably good health and strong constitutions, they did ; and no doubt their efforts were crowned with success. John Woodgate Ashburnham was sent to Mr. Earle's school at Tunbridge Wells, and afterwards went out to the Cape. Decima was placed at another school at Tunbridge Wells and eventually joined her sister at the Cape, as also did Bertram, who was educated at Christ's Hospital. George Percy, the eldest son, had very decided talents for drawing, but his efforts do not seem to have been so successful as those of the other members of his family. What ultimately became of him, we do not know.

Decima made an advantageous match in South Africa, and John Woodgate Ashburnham married the daughter of Dr. Merriman, Bishop of Grahamstown. He

died in 1888, leaving several children, of whom the eldest, John Anchitel, became Resident Magistrate at Bloemfontein in the Orange River Colony.

It has been mentioned that Sir William left £500 for the publication of some of his poetical works, having already published some Sonnets and Poems in a quarto volume in 1795. Lady Ashburnham undertook the task, and consulted the views of Lord Ashburnham and Sir John Ashburnham; the former recommended Mr. Rodd of 9, Great Newport Street. There are several letters on the subject; one, from Lord Ashburnham, mentions other and older papers.

Dear Lady Ashburnham,

"Ashm Place, 10th Feby, 1847.

I accept with many thanks your very obliging offer to allow me to peruse the Family Papers which you have discovered at Broomham, and I engage to take all due care of them and restore them to you as soon as I have read them.

I fear that the weather must have prevented Mr. Rodd from leaving town, but if he should be at Broomham in a few days, I should propose that he should take charge of the parcel, for I think it probable that he will come here before he returns to town, as I wrote to him by yesterday's post to say I wish'd to see him. I would rather defer the pleasure of looking over the correspondence than have documents of so much interest entrusted to any less safe mode of conveyance.

Mr. Hallett's silence is little to his credit. I can conceive no good reason, tho a very cogent one might be suggested, for such an incivility. I need not repeat that if on this point or any other I can be of any use to you, I shall be very truly gratified to be employed. Lady Ashburnham desires her kind compliments to you, & I remain very faithfully yours

Ashburnham."

Mr. Hughes Hallett was a London solicitor who had written to Lady Ashburnham informing her that, in the course of transactions in his office, he had discovered that Sir William Ashburnham was legally entitled to certain property, of whose nature he gave no hint. Mr. Palmer declared that he was a man of very respectable antecedents; Lord Ashburnham's enquiries, however, had elicited that his character was generally considered unprofessional. A good deal of correspondence passed on the subject, but it seems that the matter was allowed at length to drop.

It should be mentioned here that the Earl of Ashburnham and his family proved the kindest and most valuable of friends; their letters are very numerous, and invitations to Ashburnham constant. They succeeded in rendering very valuable aid to George Ashburnham's family in establishing themselves in life.

Lady Ashburnham raised one other memorial to her departed husband. In 1858 she erected in Guestling Church a stained glass East window, the subject being Christ feeding the multitude, surrounded by texts and the arms of Ashburnham; also two lancet windows illustrating the Ascension and the Resurrection. The inscription was as follows:—

"In Memory of Sir William Ashburnham Baronet,
Of Broomham in this parish,
The Poet and Philanthropist.

Born June 21st, 1769, married July 7th, 1825,
Juliana daughter of the Revd. William Humphry, Vicar
of Kempsing cum Seal in the County of Kent,
and departed this life, without issue, March 22nd, 1843."

This window was put up by Ward & Co. at a cost of over £100; and when the stonemason's charges and other items were added, the amount was nearer £200. Lady Ashburnham also effected the repainting and varnishing of the hatchments in Guestling Church; newly paved and pewed the Broomham Chancel and repaired the Broomham faculty in Guestling Church. These works were finished, and the Church, which had been restored, was re-opened on 1st August, 1858.

Lady Ashburnham continued to live at Broomham until her death, which occurred 22nd February, 1865, in the seventy-sixth year of her age.

CHAPTER VII.

HUMPHRY OF SEAL.

Elizabeth, the fifth daughter of the Rev. Francis Woodgate of Mountfield, b. 29th November, 1750, married in 1778 the Rev. William Humphry, M.A., Vicar of Kemsing and Seal, and Rector of Birling, Kent (a). He was the only brother of Ozias Humphry, R.A., the eminent miniature painter and the friend of Reynolds, of Dr. Johnson, and of Romney. Ozias Humphry was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and has left on record some very interesting particulars of his family, contained in several unconnected papers, whose purport we have attempted to give, as nearly as possible in the same language.

When this family first arrived in England is uncertain, but the earliest account is found of it in *Domesday Book*, the *Inquisitio Gheldi*, and similar evidences, from which it appears that Humfridus was Chamberlain to King Edward the Confessor, and it would seem that he continued in the same capacity with his kinsman William the Conqueror, as is manifest from the many favours and grants which he received from that Monarch. He possessed estates in Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, and other counties. The arms of this family were recorded in the College of Heralds upon its first establishment by Henry the Third in 1340; they were first granted to one of the Holy Warriors at the Siege of Acre, and the crest—a cross bottoné charged with five pellets—bears an allusion to the wounds of Our Saviour. In 1380 Sir John Humphry was one of the Knights who took part in a great tournament, described in an old collection of arms made about 1390. This book, formerly in the possession of Sir William Le Neve, Mowbray King of Arms, was purchased for his Majesty, in 1795 at the sale of books of Mr. Barack Longmate. The drawing was copied by Ozias Humphry, and attested as a true copy by Mr. Barack Longmate; Joseph Edmonson, Mowbray Herald Extraordinary; and John Trenchard, First Commissioner of Taxes. The genealogy of this family is entered at the Heralds College, commencing with John Humphry, whose descendants were believed to be the only remaining representatives of the family.

(a) Henry Humphry of Honiton married Elizabeth, only surviving daughter and heiress of the Rev. Ozias Upcott, for 40 years Rector of Honiton, and left issue

George Humphry of Honiton, only son, m. Elizabeth Hooper of Braunston. He died in 1758, she July, 1789, aged 82, leaving

1. Ozias R.A., F.S.A., d. unm., 9th March, 1810.

2. Five other children, not surviving.

3. William (Rev.), M.A., m. 10th November, 1778, Elizabeth, dau. of the Rev. Francis Woodgate of Mountfield (b. 1750, bu. at Seal 23rd February, 1835), d. 1816 leaving

1. William Ozias, of whom presently.

2. Elizabeth, b. 18th January, 1782, d. unm., bu. 12th June, 1818.

3. George Upcott, bapt. 2nd April, 1785, d. 10th May, 1803.

4. Frances, bapt. 4th September, 1787, bu. 23rd December, 1854, at Seal.

5. Juliana, m. 7th July, 1825 Sir William Ashburnham, Bart., of Broomham (her cousin) (see p. 88.) No issue.

6. Mary Anne, b. 12th January, 1792, d. 27th May, 1843, unm.

7. John, b. 30th April, 1794, bu. 13th March, 1807, aged 12.

William Ozias, of the Council Office, Whitehall, b. 18th October, bapt. 29th December, 1779, bu. at Seal 2nd June, 1826, m. 1813, Louisa, dau. of — Newcombe, R.N., and left issue

1. William, d. 1829. 2. Stephen, d. September, 1822.

3. Richard, b. 1820-1. Left issue, two children.

4. Frederick, b. April, 1821.

5. Ozias, left two children.

6. Juliana, m. Mr. Tucker, of Bootle, Liverpool.

The above-mentioned John Humphry, of Dorsetshire, accompanied the forces assembled by Edward VI, in Hampshire, Wiltshire, and Dorsetshire, under the command of Lord Russell in the year 1549, to subdue the rebels of Devonshire and Cornwall, who had taken up arms to prevent the pulling down of crosses and superstitious appendages of the Roman Catholics, and on account of the enclosing of lands. The battle which reduced the insurgents and relieved Exeter was fought at Fenneton Bridges, four miles from Honiton.

It appears by ancient writings (in possession of the family in the time of Ozias Humphry) that the beauty of the country and other considerations induced John Humphry to continue and settle himself in the Vale of Honiton, where he purchased estates which were not finally alienated from the family till 1790. One of his descendants, Henry Humphry, Gent., married Elizabeth, only surviving child of the Rev. Ozias Upcott, for nearly forty years Rector of Honiton, in whose parish Church he lies buried under the Communion Table. He preached the first sermon in that pulpit after the Restoration of Charles II. The Upcott family is of considerable antiquity in Devonshire, and allied to many distinguished west country families. One of them married Joan Trelawney of Trelawney; another Agnes Upton, ancestress of the Viscounts Templetown; and a third, eldest sister of the Rev. Ozias Upcott, married William Courtney of Powderham Castle.

George Humphry, son of Henry Humphry and Elizabeth Upcott, married Elizabeth daughter of Nicholas Hooper of Braunston, Devon. This was the family of George Hooper, Bishop of Gloucester, who suffered martyrdom at the West door of his own Cathedral. George Humphry was born at Honiton and was originally intended for the Church; he was educated with great aptitude for learning under the Rev. Ezra Cleaveland, Rector of Honiton and author of the *Lives of the Courtney Family*; but the misfortunes of the family prevented this design. He died in 1758 leaving a widow and two surviving children, Ozias and William.

To this family of Humphry belonged Thomas Humphry, Member of Parliament for Lyme Regis in the time of Henry VI; Michael Humphry, in the second Parliament of Charles I; Dr. Lawrence Humphry, Principal of Magdalen College, Oxford, an exemplary Protestant Divine of great learning; and it seems Sir Orlando Humphry or Humphrys.

With reference to the latter, the following memoir is certainly interesting and possibly valuable.

" ANECDOTES OF SIR WILLIAM HUMPHRYS' FAMILY.

"Sir William was the son of Sir Orlando Humphrys, and married a Miss Lancashire (whose Father I believe was a Solicitor); his brother I well know was a most eminent Apothecary, in Clements Lane, Lombard Street, & Father of Mrs. Baker, whose picture now hangs in my parlour, and who stood Godmother to me with her cousin Lady Humphrys.

"Sir William was Lord Mayor in 1727, the year King George the Second came to the throne, and entertained their Majesties according to custom at Guild Hall the 29th of October. Lady Humphry was far advanced in her pregnancy; the Queen, eager to prevent her kneeling to present the first goblet of wine (as usual), struck it off the salver to the great annoyance of both their fine dresses, but plenty of warm napkins soon remedied the disaster, and the Queen insisted on a chair being set near her, and very freely conversed during the time she sat at dinner. Before the Queen retired, she desired to see Lady Humphrys at St. James' as soon as she had recover'd the fatigue of that day, to speak to her on a subject not proper to mention then, and wished to know the day before that she might appoint an hour to receive her in private, without any form, and advised her to come in her private coach, not as Lady Mayoress, and quite in a morning dress. This was obeyed, and she was received with the greatest affability.

"The Queen then told her that she heard it was customary for the King or Queen to be sponsors for a child born in the mayoralty, and as she had a son wished this might be a daughter; but being aware of the great trouble and expense it would cause to her Ladyship, and great inconvenience to herself, begged she would accept her first Lady of the Bedchamber to answer for her at the Christening, and if the child lived to repeat her Catechism, desired she might be brought to say it in her hearing, or she should not think herself discharged from her Duty she had undertaken.

"Sir William had one son and two daughters. The former died of the small pox when only 13, to his great grief. The latter consequently became coheirresses to a large estate he had purchased in the parish of Barking in Essex, on which was a very old mansion seat which he pulled down, and built another, which he told my father, exclusive of many old materials, cost him twenty seven thousand pounds. When finished and aired, all Lady Humphrys' relations, with my father and mother, were the first company invited to sleep in it and stayed three days. It was called Jenkins. The best bed was crimson velvet, two silk damask, their own bed silk mohair, the rest stuff damask, and the servants common stuff hangings (cotton furniture was then unknown).

"The eldest daughter married Reginald Ball Warren, Esqr., a Brigadier in the army (a title since changed to aide de camp), a most worthy man, who was so much in love with her that he offered to take her either with or without fortune, which so pleased Sir William that he made a most cruel stretch of parental authority by insisting on her marrying him, as her heart she declared was engaged to Colonel Honeywood and Mr. Warren was old enough to be her Father. He had an estate in Berkshire of £3,000 per annum, kept a set of horses, made her the best and most indulgent husband, and she often said gratitude supplied the place of affection and enabled her to make him a good wife. They were a very happy couple, and many happy hours has the writer of these anecdotes spent in sitting on their knees; they never had a child, and both were very partial to me, but to my great sorrow Mr. Warren died before I was seven years old. He left his widow (as he thought) his estate at her own disposal, but it did not prove so, for his sister being unhappily married to Sir Archer Croft, whose gaming and extravagance deprived him of his liberty many years before he died in the King's Bench Prison, and left his lady and four children to be maintained and educated by her good brother, which they all were very comfortably. In a few months after Mr. Warren's decease, his widow married her first Love, Colonel Honeywood, who living but two or three years she as soon as decency would permit married Thomas Gore, Esqr., who had retired from business some years and was esteemed the richest merchant in the City. With him she lived near ten years, when Lady Croft (Mr. Warren's sister) happening to have some occasion to apply to her Father's will, it occurred to her attorney that her sons were the legal heirs to her brother's estate, as he had no children. The most eminent Counsel were consulted by both parties, who being all of the same opinion what was termed an amicable suit was commenced, and the arrears for the possession from Mr. Warren's decease made with abatements to their mutual satisfaction, as there was no appearance of fraudulent design in the matter (only mistake); but it cost Mr. Gore so large a sum, and proved so great a mortification and disappointment to his Lady that she died of a rapid decline in less than a year after.

"Her sister being many years younger and the favourite daughter of Lady Humphrys, who lived to see her two first children born, she left after a few legacies the residue of her large fortune in Trustees' care (of which my Father was one) and I have often heard him say that with what she gave at her marriage and left at her decease it amounted to £80,000. In 1741 she was married to Charles Gore, Esq., of Tring, in Hertfordshire, who was for several sessions of Parliament Member for that County, and nephew to her sister's husband. Since my father's death in 1762, I have entirely lost all connection or knowledge of the family, by various changes of situation; but have heard from good authority that a few years after Mr. Gore's demise

his eldest son sold the Tring estate (being in the Army and ordered to the East Indies) for £90,000, to pay off the younger children's fortunes, of whom I believe there were seven. I have heard he was very successful and deserving and still living, and cannot be above eight years younger than the writer of these anecdotes (at Mr. Humphry's particular desire) who was 75 last January.

Eleaz. Neale. 1809.

Brompton, Middlesex.

Given to Mr. Humphry, June 29th, 1809."

The misfortunes of the family have been mentioned; the same misfortunes made it necessary for Ozias Humphry to exert his talents with vigour and industry. In 1763 he was invited by Sir Joshua Reynolds to settle himself near him in London, and three years later "he exhibited at Spring Gardens a portrait in miniature of John Ealing, the old and well known model of the Royal Academy, which was universally noticed and admired, and was purchased by his Majesty, who was graciously pleased to reward him for it by a present of a hundred guineas, and as a further encouragement he had the honour to paint a large miniature of the Queen, with other branches of the Royal family. He continued to practise this line of art with almost unexampled success until the year 1772, when a fall from his horse gave his head so violent a shock and impaired his whole nervous system so much that he was unable to pursue his profession of miniature painting with the same efficacy that he had hitherto done. By the advice of his friends, he was induced to endeavour to extend the scale of his practise, and with this intention he resolved to pass a few years in Italy, not only for the reason just stated, but with the hope of general improvement in his profession. He left England in 1773 accompanied by his friend Romney, and proceeded to Rome, where and in the neighbourhood he resided four years. In this situation, though surrounded by advantages, he had still many difficulties to contend with, for his time had been so entirely engaged by miniature painting that he had had little or no practise in oils, and had the whole process to discover. In 1777 Mr. Humphry returned to England, where he established himself, painting generally in oils until the commencement of the year 1785, when he embarked for India. . . ."

This account, taken from Bryan's *Dictionary of Painters and Engravers* is necessary in order to understand the position of his brother, the Rev. William Humphry. He left Magdalene Hall with the warmest commendation from Dr. Dennison, the Principal, and the Rev. John Allen, the Vice-Principal and his Tutor; and in 1767 he was licenced by the Bishop of Winchester to the Curacy and Lectureship of the Parish Church of Wandsworth, Surrey. On the 31st December, 1770, he was instituted to the Vicarage of the Parish Church of Kempsey, with the chapel of Seal.

The progress of Mr. Humphry's engagement is briefly traced in the Italian letters of Ozias Humphry, who thus delivers his opinion of his brother's proposed connexion on first receiving the news.

" . . . You have made me happy beyond expression by acquainting me that you have at length made your proposals to Miss Woodgate and her family and that they have been so favorably received. I am so well persuaded of the goodness of your disposition that I believe Miss Woodgate will never have cause to regret her connexion with you, and am so satisfied with what little I have the pleasure to know of the Mr. Woodgates and with your account of the rest of the family that to be myself in some degree connected with them is the most desirable event that can be. You have now in your possession near a thousand pounds. I am happy to have it in my power immediately to fulfil my promise. I rely upon your prudence in securing my money that is in Mr. Child's hands. Let me hear exactly what money you will want, and everything shall be done to your Heart's content. I beg you to present my most respectful wishes & compliments to Miss Woodgate, and let her know that tho I have not ye pleasure and good fortune to be personally known to her, I have long entertained most favourable sentiments and shall from this time encourage an affectionate

regard for anything; to her Brothers & Family, my most respectful compliments. Your letter if her had been wanting will contribute much to secure my departure from Rome. . . .

Rome, Feby 1st, 1777."

The next letter, four days later, contains further details of the pecuniary arrangements; he adds,

" . . . I think your proposals rather inadequate to Miss Woodgate. Nothing upon Earth shall prevent my being in England before midsummer, therefore I should think if your Nuptials could be deferr'd till then it would not be amiss."

Writing on 24th February, he says :—

" I remember very well your description of Miss W —; what little I have had the pleasure of knowing of her Brothers I entirely approve, and tho I have not the good Fortune to be known to Miss W. or her Father, I can have no doubt from your acct of them but it will be a connexion both honourable and advantageous for you, and productive of much happiness. I have not only no objection to it, but in whatever light I consider it am flatter'd and delighted with the prospect of it, and shall be happy to do everything in my power to promote and forward your wishes. I know very little of the exact situation of my Mother's circumstances, and therefore cannot guess if it wou'd be convenient for her to advance you three or four hundred pounds, which I can easily believe will be the least you will want. I should be very sorry that any thing shou'd be proposed to her wch wd give her a moments uneasiness or put her to the least difficulty. The very few years which in a course of nature she can have to live I hope will pass in uninterrupted enjoyment. Therefore whatever money you may find necessary to make your proposals reputable and your condition easy, I will most willingly furnish you with. I can with convenience let you have five hundred pounds of the money in Mr. Offley's hands to settle upon Miss Woodgate if it should be required or as much more as you shall find necessary. You know my circumstances in all respects and may command whatever I have."

Amongst the letters of congratulation is one from John Hughes, an old friend, dated 28th July, 1777 :—

" I have been indebted a Letter to you for some time past, but hearing a great Peece of News relative to yourself, I could not any longer defer writing to you. This News is no less than your being married to ye Lady you have so long admired. I hope ye Report is true, but as I have my Doubts about it I shall defer sending ye usual Compts till I have it confirm'd under your own hand, when you may expect a Letter of Congratulation by ye Return of ye Poste. By this time I hope your Brother is safe arriv'd in England & in good Health. He is a lively sensible man & his account of the different places he has seen while abroad must be very entertaining. But you perhaps (if Report speaks Truth) are so much engag'd in domestick affairs as to pay little attention to foreign customs or Fashions. I have lately been in Berkshire where I spent a Fortnight with an old Schoolfellow. His name is Townshend. He inform'd me yt Mr. Bryan, Master of Magdalen School, Oxford, whom you knew, has some time since paid ye last Debt to Nature. If he was not ye most sensible in ye University, yet he was generally thought a good sort of man, and you know we ought always to speak well of ye dead.

I was very glad to hear yt ye Duke of Dorset behaves so kind & Friendly to you, & hope yt his Grace, as soon as it is in his Power, will make you a Pluralist. When you see his Grace & have a good opportunity, please to make my respectful Compts to him. It gave me great Pleasure to hear that Mr. alias Dr. & Mrs. Whitfield were in good Health. Pray make my best wishes to them. I hope to see Dr. Whitfield's name soon in ye news Papers with his being appointed at least to a good Prebendary. I don't like ye Character you give of Mr. Manesty, but I hope ye Breach between him & Dr. Whitfield is by this Time made up. Please to make my respectful Compts to Sir Charles & Lady Farnaby, & you will oblige your sincere Friend & humble Servant,

John Hughes."

July 28, 1777.

The following verses on Elizabeth Woodgate could hardly have been written by Mr. Humphry :—

“ To Miss Elizabeth W——e of Mountfield in Sussex, written by one of her admirers in the year 1766.

1.

No lass on faméd Britain's plains,
Where Beauty all triumphant reigns,
Dear Betsy can outvie ;
Her artless charms no muse can tell
Nor can the rising sun excell
The radiance of her Eye.

2.

Unnumber'd graces round her move,
At once inspiring awe and love,
How heavenly is her smile !
With what a sweet bewitching mien,
Not to be told or safely seen,
She can the hours beguile.

3.

Good nature, cheerfulness and ease
Improve the fair one's power to please,
Which no vain pride destroys ;
While meaner Beauties gain by arts
Of vulgar growth the coxcombs' hearts,
She scorns the worthless joys.

4.

Be bold, my Muse, and tell the Fair
No tinsel charms can e'er ensnare
A heart that's worth the pains ;
A short lived flame indeed may raise,
Which rapid as it grows decays,
And scarce a day remains.

5.

But would you fire the real love
Of swains of worth and sense approve,
Pursue my Betsy's plan ;
No other way you can succeed ;
For tho' you may the monkey lead,
You'll ne'er secure the *Man*.”

The marriage articles provided that Mr. Humphry should settle £1,500, and the Rev. Francis Woodgate £1,200, which was duly carried out by a Settlement dated September, 1783, of which Ozias Humphry of Thornhaugh Street, London, and Henry Woodgate of Riverhill were the Trustees. This sum would produce about £100 a year. Mr. Humphry had also the living of Seal cum Kemsing ; and in 1782 he was instituted on the presentation of Lord Abergavenny to the Vicarage of Birling, Kent. It is also possible that Mr. Woodgate made his daughter some allowance during his lifetime, and he certainly remembered her very handsomely in his will. At first however the Humphrys had a very limited income ; but as they were both exceedingly prudent and economical, that was no great hardship. They were married at Mountfield, by licence, on 10th November, 1778, and on the 12th Mr. Humphry is able to report their safe arrival at Seal, in a letter to the Rev. Francis Woodgate.

“ Dear Sir,

I do myself the Pleasure of informing you that we arriv'd safe at Godding Green [in Seal] last Night, after as agreeable a Journey as the Badness of the Roads wd admit

of. I am commissioned to assure you that Mrs. Humphry highly approves of her new Habitation, & I am pretty confident that in this & every other Situation my greatest Happiness will always consist in a constant Endeavour to promote hers. We have not yet had the pleasure of seeing the Ladies & your Son [Stephen] at Sevenoaks, but they are all well & intend paying us a visit to-morrow Morning. Mrs. Humphry & Miss Fanny desire to be remember'd to you, Mrs. Woodgate & their Sister in the most dutiful & affectionate Manner, in wch I hope you will permit me to joyn them, & believe me to be, Dr. Sr. your most obliged & obedient Servt.

Godden, Novr 12, 1778.

Willm. Humphry."

The family at first resided in a house at Godden. The next letter indicates a desire to settle in the neighbourhood of Mountfield, as Dean of Battle. The Bishop of Chichester's eldest son had married Alicia Woodgate, Francis Woodgate's daughter, so that a certain amount of interest was not lacking ; but the attempt proved abortive.

"Seal, Jany. 28, 1779.

"D. Sr.,

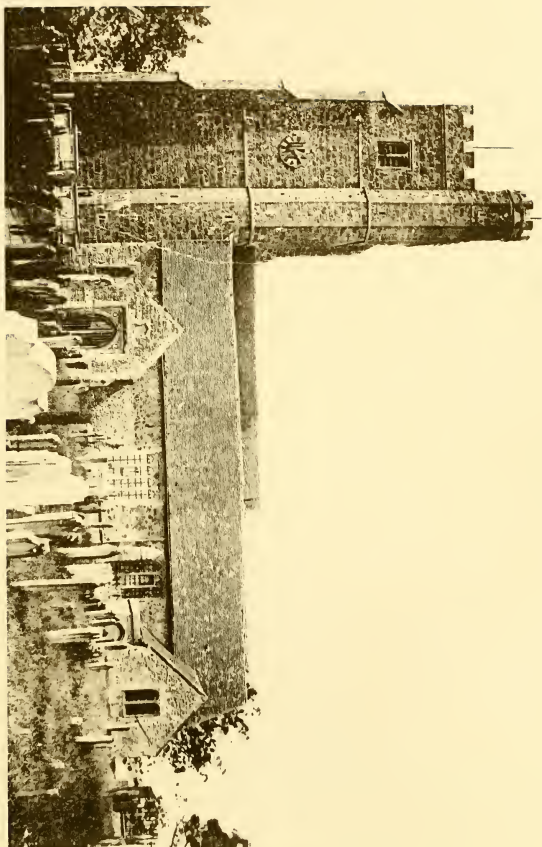
I take the earliest opportunity of thanking you for your very great kindness in soliciting for me the Living of Battle ; & tho' from the lateness of the application, I cd not be very sanguine in my Hopes of success, yet, whilst there was the smallest Probability of succeeding, I did not doubt but you wd excuse the Liberty of my pressing it, especially as the Situation in many Respects wd have been particularly agreeable to both of us—but on no account so much so as by bringing us to the Neighbourhood of Mountfield. All Circumstances however considered, it is perhaps as well for us as it is, for the Dignity annex'd to the Deanery might possibly have led us into some Expences that might not quite so well have suited our Circumstances, & I assure you, Sr., that I have put the Living of Seal on so good a Footing, & without the least Dispute with any of my Parishioners, that in future it will afford us a very comfortable income, & I am informed by those who are much better judges of it than myself that my Farm, when once got in order, is likely to turn to a very good Account. We saw Mr. Davies (aa) for a few Minutes last Monday Evening at Sevenoaks, as we were returning from a visit to Mrs. Shorte, & he has promis'd to favor us wth his Company next Monday Se'nnight. I am desir'd by Mrs. Humphry to thank Miss Sally for her Letter, & Miss Anne for her Note. We both anticipate great Pleasure in the Hopes of seeing you & Mrs. Woodgate at Godden early in the Spring, when I am really of Opinion you will joyn with us in thinking that our House & Situation are very agreeable. I am commissioned by Mrs. Humphry to present her Duty & best Respects in wch, Dr Sr., permit me to joyn her & to conclude myself with great sincerity, your most oblig'd & affectionate Servant,

William Humphry."

As there are several hundreds of Humphry letters, it is impossible to set out each one at length ; most of the earlier ones are from Ozias Humphry, full of all the London news of the day. We will content ourselves with extracts relating to the county of Kent and the different members of the family. He writes on 6th November, 1779, from Newman Street :—

" . . . You acquaint me that Mrs. Humphry and yourself will soon be in London on a visit to Mrs. Acton [her sister]. I can only say that whatever time you can spare for me I shall be very thankful for, and will do every thing in my power to render your stay in London agreeable to you. Mr. Farmer brought me a most obliging message from Lord Frederick Campbell wth permission in a very ample manner to me to study at my Leisure the collection at Coombe Bank &c. I expect every hour likewise an invitation from Mrs. Perry of Penshurst to come there to copy the Sacharissa of Vandyke."

(aa) Mr. Davies must have been either the curate at Mountfield or the husband of Mary Woodgate, a first cousin of the Rev. Francis Woodgate, being a daughter of Thomas Woodgate of St. Sepulchre's, London.



SEAL CHURCH, Kent, showing Woodgate family vault.

On the birth of Elizabeth, the second child, on 18th January, 1782, Mr. Humphry received the following letter of congratulation from the Duke of Dorset.

“ Gro. Sq. Jan 19th, 1782.

Few words are best upon happy as well as melancholy occasions, and I shall only desire you to read the enclosed letter ; at the same time I sincerely congratulate Mrs. Humphry and you upon the *agreeable* contents. I am with great truth, your most faithful humble servant

Dorset.”

Here is another specimen of the Duke of Dorset's correspondence, an invitation to dinner.

“ Knole, Sun: night.

The Duke of Dorset's compliments to Mr. Humphry, and acquaints him that he gives to-morrow *the duplicate* of the Haunch of Venison he gave on Saturday to *his brother*. The Duke and Duchess of Dorset both hope to see Mr. and Mrs. Humphry ; the hot weather will not allow the haunch to wait *a later day*. The Duke and Duchess of Dorset leave Knole for some time on Wednesday. The dinner hour is half past four. . . . (b)

On 6th February, 1782, William Humphry was instituted to the Vicarage of Birling, to which reference is made in the next letter. Ozias was something of a genealogist ; he was in 1798 elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries on the

(b) A propos of this, the following lines were written by J. F. Sackville, one of the family of the Duke of Dorset, on 25th September, 1792.

ON FRANCE.

In Europe there's a savage race
Of cruel kind of men,
There is not one true honest face,
Not even one in ten.
Now all the men in arms do rise
And liberty do cry ;
The air resounds with dreadful cries ;
All must consent or die.
Perhaps they will behead the King,
And also kill the Queen,
Which will be the most horrid thing
That ever yet was seen.
And now the streets, as we are told,
Are in a gore of blood
And human bodies not yet cold
Lay on the sanguine Flood.
They now come here, our bread to thieves,
But still I have no care,
But that they will behind them leave
Their horrid customs there—
And let us honest Britons like
Be merry, dance, and sing,
True to ourselves, our Country's right,
And true to *George* our *King*.

J. F. Sackville hoc composuit, September 25th, 1792.”

The author was only a child ; but it shows the detestation with which even children regarded the proceedings of the French. The production was shown to Mr. Humphry, who wrote under it these lines :—

“ How am I pleased to see my Friends excell,
In Nature's great Perfection, writing well ?
But when they spring from an illustrious line,
Who paid due Honours to the Sacred Nine,
Where unimpaired the seeds of Genius run,
With undiminished force from Sire to Son,
Such worth transmissive claims the loftiest Lays ;
Praise less than this were impotence of Praise.
That Praise, O Sackville, may you learn to boast
Nor let your great Forefather's Fame in you be lost.
W. H.”

nomination of the President, Lord Leicester, and spared no exertions in seeking out memorials of his family.

“ Dear Brother,

I trouble you with this to beg to know for certain from you when the great cricket day and Ball will be at Sevenoaks, because it is my Intention to come and to bring with me Mr. Jackson of Exeter for a day or two. You know he never tastes wine, so that you will have nothing to provide for him but a little meat, pudding, water & a bed. I cou’d wish to see your new living at Birling and if you had leisure to go on to Rochester I shou’d be very well pleased that we might visit together the Tombs of two of our great-great-grand aunts who lie buried in the Cathedral there, wth monuments & inscriptions to their memory & arms &c wch I have discovered within a few days past. I am pretty much engaged at my leisure in a search for family records in wh I have been greatly successful. I shall bring down with me an authenticated evidence from the Heralds Office of four hundred years, & I believe it traceable back to the reign of Edward the Confessor before the Conquest, as it is certain from Doomsday Evidence & the *Inquisitio Gheldi* that a namesake who was Chamberlain to that prince held Lands in Devonshire at that very early period, but of this more when I have the pleasure to see you. . . . My best compliments to Mr., Mrs., & Miss Noaille. . . . Newman St., June 2, 1782.”

Miss Nouaille afterwards married Mr. Rudge ; and her only brother married Anne Woodgate of Summerhill.

In 1784 Ozias Humphry resolved to pass some three or four years in India and return with a fortune. Willison had just returned with £30,000 made by painting there for eight years ; Smith was the only tolerable miniature painter in that country, and had accumulated £20,000 in five years ; Mr. Humphry would have been contented with £10,000, which he declared would “ give serenity to the prospect of old age.” He was anxious to leave some permanent property in the family upon which his successors might start. The fact is, he was of a very extravagant disposition, a man who would spend his whole income, be what it might ; and a more perfectly sanguine man would be difficult to discover. He states in a letter to his brother :

“ . . . You say I ought to be contented if I can make four hundred a year &c. I never have made less than six, wch I dare say I could increase, but I never will ; for it would inevitably leave me an anxious & miserable old age, full of want, disappointment and wretchedness. . . .”

Before his departure he went down to Honiton to pay a last visit to his mother, whom he expected never to see again. She suffered from no particular complaint but was slowly decaying. He writes to his brother :—

“ . . . Whenever you go, make a point of carrying some sermons, as the people there desire exceedingly to hear you preach. . . . There was an assembly whilst I was at Honiton wch proved a very agreeable one. I dined once with Mr. Putt at Combe, and at Mr. Blagdon’s where the card clubb happened to be, once at Mr. Gard’s, & with all that family at Mrs. Baker’s, and all the Family with Mr. Tucker dined with us at my Mother’s. Mr. Tucker’s kindness and attention to my Mother is more like another son than a Friend of the Family. She is also particularly happy in a servant who is really much attached to her & to her interest. Mr. Gard’s Family & Mrs. Baker are very kind & attentive to her. I made a slight drawing of her which is very like her and from wch I mean to make a regular miniature. . . . I have also a sketch of our House & of Hembury Fort from my Bedchamber window, & one or two other slight things. . . . My very best Complimts to Miss Sarah & to Mr. & Mrs. Henry Woodgate. . . .”

He sailed in January, 1785, on board the *Francis*. He had heard, with some disgust, that the stories of “ the golden East ” had had a similar effect upon three

other artists as upon himself, and they had all manifested a desire to try their fortune in India. Amongst them was Mr. Smart, the miniature painter. Mr. Humphry's House in London was let to Lady Clark, and the management of his affairs entrusted to his brother, but unluckily either Mr. Acton or Mr. Winter neglected to make out his power of attorney. He says: "I trust & hope Mrs. Woodgate [of Mountfield] is better. To-morrow I will put on for one month mourning for my dear & much valued Friend Mrs. Acton."

Mrs. Woodgate died that month. In May, Mr. Humphry paid a visit to Honiton, which was the occasion of the following:—

"Seal, May ye 29th, 1785.

My dear Husband,

. . . We all set off for Mountfield to morrow morning, as I received a letter from there yesterday informing me yt it wd be perfectly convenient our coming at this time, & that my Father would send for us to Lamberhurst & Mrs. Woodgate [of Riverhill] is so kind to take us as far as Tunbridge, when we mean to take a chaise to Lamberhurst. I shall certainly return the day you do, as we shall be all most anxious to see you after so long an absence. Brother Henry most kindly supplied me with the sum I wanted. I dined at Mr. Winder's on Friday according to appointment & met the intended party. Mr. Pratt called & drank tea here on Monday; he came to ask you to go with him to River Hill the next day. Your lambs are all in perfect health, not any of them sold but I believe Moyses is to take some of them this week. Mr. Fleming did Duty at Seal this morning & walked home with me & eat a beef stake, as he was going to Kemsing this afternoon; he said Dr. Witfield has Company & Edward's people were from home. Poor man, he seemed most happy in obliging you.

Harry Hardinge has been applying for the Living of Shoreham but is not likely to succeed. This I had from Mr. Pratt. He went to Bayham yesterday. Mrs. Powell has taken the House opposite to Mr. Streightfield's. Mrs. Hardinge continues very poorly, I imagine they will be at the Grove before you reach Seal. Mr. Powell came agreeable to his appointment tho he sent a letter by the Post to say he could not possibly come till Thursday sevenight; he said he had waited in Town a fortnight & could not get Ordained. Poor dear Ann [Woodgate] continues very indifferent indeed; Mrs. W. says she never saw any person look so ill."

Mr. Pratt, who subsequently succeeded as Earl Camden, lived at this time at Wilderness, near Sevenoaks. In 1789 Ozias Humphry returned; he had realized large sums, but had left a great deal still owing—particularly from the Nabob Vizier of Lucknow. He writes in reference to the Duke of Dorset's marriage, on 9th January, 1790:—

" . . . It is not at all surprizing to me that the Duke thought it proper for Mr. Curteis [Rector of Sevenoaks] to marry him. What a gross affront would it not have been to have passed over the Rector of his parish? & one too whose family he has so long known? I have not yet seen Palmer, but shall send to him this Evening to know if he is in Town. Harry Woodgate has not wrote to me as yet. If he should ever mention any thing of my concern to you, it is proper he shoud be informed that my acct to him was made out as if it was for Lord Stanhope or Sr Charles Farnaby & I expect that his for the interest of his money be made out in the same manner. . . . Will [Humphry] promised to translate for me one of the Epistles of Ovid; pray let him do it & send it. I shall be happy to have an opportunity of seeing Lord Bayham to explain my concern to him & cannot but flatter myself that the issue will be favorable. Sir Samson Wright told me this morning that in one of yesterday's papers it was asserted that *you* had married the duke; to which I replied, it was not very unlikely but that I knew nothing of the matter. I have not seen the paragraph. It is expected the dutchess of Dorset will be presented to the Queen on Thursday next, previous to the Birth day, on wch day no presentations are made."

The "concern" was evidently the Nabob's bond, in which Henry Woodgate seems to have been the counsel employed, and Mr. Palmer the solicitor. The Duke, whose seat was at Knowle Park, was patron of Ozias Humphry, and also of his brother. Of the other families in the neighbourhood, the Pratts lived at the Wilderness, and also at Bayham Abbey; Mrs. Hardinge, daughter of Sir John Pratt the Lord Chief Justice, and sister of Lord Camden, lived with her daughters, Juliana and Caroline, at the Grove, Seal, a property belonging to the Pratts; Lord Amherst at Montreal, near Sevenoaks; the Nouailles at Greatness; and the Woodgates, of course, at Riverhill.

Mrs. Humphry, Senior, died in 1789, aged 82; the best pictures, prints, and the pick of the furniture were taken by Ozias Humphry, the remainder sold, including a quantity of valuable Honiton lace. Ozias Humphry writes from St. James' Street, 25th March, 1790:—

"Mrs. & Miss Hardinge did me the favor to call yesterday with Miss Nouaille (who by the way grows coarser & coarser) & sat with me more than an hour. They behaved with great kindness, asked after you, offered to bring any parcel or convey any thing for you, invited me to see them & behaved to me in the highest degree satisfactorily. . . . I have neither seen or heard of Mr. or Mrs. Cleaton [formerly Miss Acton] lately, or of Mr. Henry Woodgate. I wish much to make a little whole length of Mrs. Humphry, & if I cou'd, wou'd spare her a week at Easter. I am delighted with Lord Bayham, there seems such a radical integrity about him. He is to have Palmer it seems for a Colleague at Bath. It pleases me exceedingly that the Duke's friend is so likely to prosper in Kent. Remember me in the kindest manner to Mrs. Humphry & the Children, & tell Will he shall have his Heraldry again in a week or two when I hope he will turn it to good account."

Meantime the children were growing up. William was eleven; and after him came Elizabeth, George Upcott, Frances, and Juliana whose godmother was Miss Juliana Hardinge. Her uncle had wished her to be named Matilda, an old family name. Mary Ann and John were born three or four years later. The Reverend Francis Woodgate died in 1790; and Mr. Humphry applied to the Duke for the vacant livings. Mrs. Humphry writes to her sisters:—

" . . . You wish to know of Mr. Humphry's application for the Livings in order to exchange them with Mr. Rideout, which Brother Henry informed us wd be a great accomodation to him. He applied to the Duke in the most pressing manner in the presence of the Dutchess. His Grace did not refuse him but said he had gone a great way in promising them, but still Mr. H. thinks he has some chance of succeeding. After what he has said 'tis impossible he can say a syllable more about it. If we know any thing further you may depend on hearing.

If a change of scene wd be agreeable to any of you, I am sure we should be rejoiced if you wd come to us. I hope my dr Ann has not particularly suffered in ye late scene of distress. Mr. Humphry unites in kindest Love & most sincere condolence to you all. I remain, my dear Sister, your most affectionate & sincere in affliction,
November ye 13th. Elizabeth Humphry."

The three unmarried daughters, Rose, Sarah, and Ann Woodgate, settled at Tonbridge, not many miles from Seal; from Tonbridge they frequently drove over to see their sister, or received her there.

The Rev. Francis Woodgate left Mrs. Humphry a farm called Mowsers in Edenbridge, in the occupation of Holmden, containing fifty acres; a property in Sevenoaks called Skeen Hill, in the occupation of the Duke of Dorset; and £500 in cash. It seems that they sold Mowsers. Ozias Humphry writes:—"I want much to discourse with you upon the late addition Mrs. Humphry has had to your Fortune. I imagine that by a part of it you will be able to confer a lasting obligation upon the D. of D. [Dorset]. Miss Ford tells me she conceives any Estate you may have near Westerham

cannot but be very valuable. I have the pleasure of seeing Miss Ford often ; I apprehend her Mother is in the last Extremity, she has been gradually declining for the last three months. I long to see William & George & all the other children. I expect that William will do honor to the name."

Ozias Humphry evidently refers to a possible sale of Skeen Hill to the Duke ; the land near Westerham was of course Mowders.

The two youngest children, Mary Anne and John, were born respectively in 1792 and 1794. Of the former, Mrs. Humphry writes to her sister in June, 1792.

" My dear Sally,

I have been truly concerned to hear you have been so poorly, & more so since the report Mr. Humphry made from you, that you thought you should not be well enough to come to the Christening, which I most sincerely hope will not be the case. If you are still very unwell I am sure change of air will be of the greatest service to you, & I shall be heartily vex'd if I can't see you. I have myself been very indifferent since I wrote to you, & have had such an inflammation in my eyes that I was near blind for ten days. They have been rather better lately but Mr. Taylor thinks I shall not get well for the present. I have been truly delighted with Mr. William Ashburnham's Poems, I think it astonishingly clever indeed ; Mr. H. is quite as much pleased with it as I am. It is a great treat to me to hear him read it, which I am sure he does ten times in a day with the greatest pleasure. I wish Mr. W. Ashburnham would come with you to our Christening, I don't know anyone whose company wd give me so much pleasure. I long to know how you do. I wish you had taken some advice when you was in Town. I still flatter myself that you will be well enough to come to us on Thursday, & pray don't think of any of your going home at night."

John's birth is announced to Anne Woodgate by Mr. Humphry in a letter of the 30th April.

" Dear Madam,

I am extremely happy to inform you that our Family has received the addition of a fine little Boy. The little Stranger made his appearance about 4 o'clock this Morning. I am sorry that the new Part of our House is not quite so dry as I could wish it, but by taking care I hope we shall prevent every Inconvenience. If you and your Sisters were disposed to take a drive to Seal in the course of next Week, we shall be very glad to introduce you to your new Relation ; at the same time we shall have an opportunity of shewing you our House, which we are all much delighted with. The Papers have inform'd you that Lord Camden was buried at Seal last Saturday. The Funeral was very proper and respectful. The present Lord Camden sent me a twenty Pound Note for the Trouble I had on the occasion, but I have my Reasons for wishing it not to be mentioned. The Duke call'd here last Monday, and told me he could not express the concern he felt that we had left Godden. He and the Duchess are so tenderly attach'd to our Welfare that they particularly desir'd to be inform'd of Mrs. Humphry's safety, and accordingly I have sent to them this morning."

Earl Camden's successor was Viscount Bayham, his eldest son, formerly mentioned as Mr. Pratt ; he filled the highest posts in the government of the country and was justly distinguished for his patriotic resignation of the large income arising from his office of Teller of the Exchequer, namely, we believe, £30,000 a year. He was created Marquis Camden in 1812, and on several subsequent occasions proved a valuable friend to the Humphrys.

The Humphrys had recently removed from the house at Godden to one which they had purchased in 1793 of the lately deceased Lord Camden, and enlarged and improved with the addition of a greenhouse and in some other particulars. In 1846 Lord Camden's grandson bought it back.

About this time it became necessary to fix upon some school for William. Eton, Westminster, and Chiswick were all considered. The inevitable expenses at Eton were £80 a year, besides casuals, which might amount to anything over another £20. Ozias Humphry and a friend whom he had consulted, Mr. Paine of Tunham Green, whose house was formerly inhabited by the lately deceased Duke of Dorset, strongly recommended Chiswick, one of the most orderly and well regulated schools in the Kingdom. Its numbers were limited to one hundred boys ; at Eton there were five hundred. Its situation was healthy ; the position was close to Ozias Humphry, and lay behind the garden of the Paines, who promised to treat William as one of their own children. From the decided manner in which Ozias Humphry writes, it is probable that William was removed at once from the school at Sevenoaks to Chiswick.

In 1796 William was placed in the Council Office at Whitehall, of which he became eventually one of the principal clerks. He lodged with a Mr. Scott, who may have been identical with the gentleman of that name, the principal usher at Chiswick. He writes at some length in 1796 :—

“ Smith Square, St, Johns Church Yard, 13 July 1796

Dear Papa,

I have not yet asked Mr. Townshend leave to come into the country ; if I had I am certain it could not have been granted, as Business has pressed so hard of late that we have not been able for this week past to go from the office before half past two or three o'clock. Mr. Wadman's absence is in a great measure owing to this, who has gone to the sea to try the effect of bathing. As soon as Mr. Wadman returns which I hope will be in less than a month, our Business will be in a great measure got through, and there will be no obstacle in the way to prevent my coming to the Country, and I have no Doubt of being then able to obtain Permission to be absent for a Fortnight or three weeks. I have seen little of my Uncle lately, as at the Time I call, which has been in the Evening, he is generally taking his walk ; he is obliged to use Exercise then, as his Avocation prevents him from doing it at any other part of the Day. I breakfasted about a week ago with a Mr. Jephson at my Uncle's, a Member of the Irish Parliament and a great Friend of Mr. Grattan's. He spoke very highly of Lord Camden [then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland] ; no one, he said, could be more liked, and it was wonderful in what a surprising Manner he has conciliated the Nation. A particular Instance he mentioned ; Lord Camden frequently called on Lord Charlemont, a violent oppositionist, but nothing in the World could prevail on him for some time to repay the visits. Lord Camden called on him, in short so often came of a morning and sat with him in his Library, and behaved in so courteous a Manner, that it was impossible to resist longer. He was obliged to break his Resolution ; he has been several times to the Castle and they are at present on the most friendly Footing. I received an Invitation through Mr. Lagrange from Mrs. Munster to dine with her on Sunday sennight, accordingly I went. Mr. Lagrange accompanied me there and we spent a very agreeable Day. Miss Walpole was the only other Person of the party. Mrs. Munster particularly enquired after you, my Mama, and the whole Family. I likewise dined with Mr. Lagrange on Sunday last. There was no one there but myself except a Mr. Kemble, a young Gentleman a Relation of his. I called on Dr. Whitfield about a Fortnight ago, he is removed from Westminster to Newman Street by Oxford Road. . . Pray give my Duty to my Mama and Love to my Brothers and Sisters, and as my Paper is quite exhausted I must now beg leave to remain your ever dutiful son

W. O. Humphry.”

In 1800 Mrs. Humphry and Elizabeth spent several weeks at Hastings, which led to an interchange of letters between her and Mr. Humphry. Much of them is necessarily taken up with uninteresting domestic details and the consideration of the state of health of the different members of the family. Though these circumstances must have been full of interest at the time, they can now very conveniently be omitted.

The first of these letters is from Mr. Humphry to his wife :—

“ Seal, 24th of June, 1800.

Dear Madam,

. . . Lady Amherst in the handsomest Manner has given up Montreal to Ld Amherst, who I am sorry to say is going to be married to Lady Plymouth who is between forty and fifty, so that there is little Prospect of a Family to inherit his Honors, or to the Neighbourhood of an eligible Acquaintance. Mr. and Mrs. Thursby were at the Grove all last Week. I spent one afternoon with them, and like Mr. Thursby very well. He is a sprightly agreeable Man. He was at Church on Sunday but wd not preach. They invited me to dinner with them several Days, but I declined that as I did likewise an Invitation from Mr. L—— on Saturday, and another from Lord Camden. I am still very stout and so am likely to continue. Lady C. and Lady Londonderry were at Church. I met Mr. Taylor at Mr. Wrainch's, and he seem'd very uncertain when Mrs. Taylor would go to Hastings, and indeed doubtful whether she wd go at all. I hope to find an opportunity of sending what you want by some other conveyance.”

The Rev. George Augustus Thursby, Rector of Abingdon, Northants., married in 1800 Frances Pelham, the daughter of Henry Cressett Pelham of Crowhurst Park, who had married Jane Hardinge, daughter of Nicholas and Jane Hardinge. Mrs. Thursby had one brother, who died unmarried, and one sister, who married Thomas Papillon of Acrise Park ; her son assumed the name of Thursby-Pelham and married his cousin, the daughter of Thomas Papillon, from whom the Thursby-Pelhams are descended.

Mr. Taylor was an apothecary of Sevenoaks and by the exercise of this occupation earned an income of some £350 a year ; he married a daughter of the Earl of Stanhope, and at the time of his death, which occurred not many years later, was Paymaster General. One of the conditions imposed upon Mr. Taylor was that he should ever continue to pursue his calling in Sevenoaks, but this was obviously evaded.

It would seem that some wine had been ordered by Mrs. Humphry but had been delayed at the time Mr. Humphry wrote. The reply, dated from Hastings 28th June, states :—

“ I am happy to announce that our wine arrived safe this day. Mr. Rideout was so kind as to send us six pint bottles that he decanted off for us of old port that had been in his cellar eight years ; I took it very kind of him* . . . I fully intended sending this letter by to-day's post had not Sir William Ashburnham & Denny call'd & sat an hour with us, which prevented my finishing it in time. He was abundantly polite, said he sd call very often to enquire after my health, gave us the most pressing Invitation to come to Broomham, which I declined in as civil a manner as I cd. Did I tell you my old Friend Miss Frewen is here Bathing for her health ? I was very happy to see her, she has called on us several times. Our Lodgings stand high & there is a fine opening to the Hills, which tho they are small makes them airy. There was a view of a fleet yesterday on the Sea uncommonly beautiful, which Sr William Ashburnham told us was supposed to be the secret Expedition sailed. Flour here is very scarce & bad ; very fortunately for the place they never had so fine a fishing Season before, they have made above 6 Thousand pounds. Will you give our best thanks to the Miss Hardinges for the trouble we have given them about the wine. I paid nine & ninepence for the carriage of it. . .”

Mr. Humphry's reply, on 1st July, comments on various points raised in the preceding one. He says :—

“ Tho you have had so great a Plenty of Fish at Hastings very little has been brought here. Neither you nor Betsy however should live too much upon Fish,

* See Reference Sheet.

it is too thin and unsubstantial a Food; a good Beef Steak is infinitely better. . . . I think I never was so lucky in Hay Making. We finish'd on Tuesday Night and I believe never had so good a Stack of Fodder. We begin at Noah's Ark on Saturday Se'nnight. I have bottled off seven Dozen of Cyder and I hope it will prove good. I received an Invitation from Lord C, who was then in Town to dine with him on Sunday to which I sent an Excuse, and at Church he press'd me to dine with him yesterday but I again desir'd to be excus'd, as it wd be inconvenient to leave my Family. It will by and by I hope lead to an Explanation. As you are in the midst of your Kindred and old acquaintance you will I trust study to pass your Time as agreeably as possible. Nothing will contribute so much to your Health. I have no Fears about Betsy, as I daresay she is all Gaiety and Life. John is very much improv'd in reading. They are all to drink Tea on Thursday at Mrs. Brown's, together wth Miss Walter. . . ."

" Hastings, July ye 8th, 1800.

My dear Mr. Humphry,

. . . I have been walking on the beach an Hour before breakfast, as it was not my bathing morning, & have pick'd up plenty of shells for the little dears. . . . Sir William Ashburnham walked near an hour with us on the Beach on Saturday. He is dispos'd to be very civil, said he cd not offer us anything out of his Garden as he had destroy'd it; poor Man, how ill judged before he has made another. All his sons have call'd on us; Denny I think very much improv'd, he said he was rejoiced to hear that George was like to go to Cambridge as he sd be so happy in his acquaintance. . . . Poor Mrs. Delves (c) I understand was buried at Ashburnham. Mrs. North I hear has got a son to their great joy; we hear Mrs. Horn is now with them. I am glad to hear our Friends at the Grove [Hardinges] are so well, we drink their Healths every day together with our good Friend Mr. Stracey. Miss Milward sent us a fine plate of Strawberries last night but we have not yet touch'd peas, they are 9d. a gallon. Our kindest love to our Friends at Riverhill and Brother Stephen; Betsy received a letter from Ellen [Woodgate] lately, she is now writing to Miss Ashburnham. I have not heard anything of the Rideouts since they left Hastings. . . ."

" Hastings, July ye 15th, 1800.

My dear Mr. Humphry,

. . . Mrs. Pelham was so good as to call on us to-day. She came with an intention of taking us to Crowhurst for a few days, but we were obliged to decline her kind offer. Sir William Ashburnham has behaved with great kindness, & the most obliging attention, has sent us Chickens, beans, peas, strawberries &c. Poor Man he seem'd to have great pleasure in it & hop'd I should not think it troublesome. Mrs. Whitear is particularly civil & Miss Milward. The latter has taken great pains to get us a cheap comfortable Lodging but has not succeeded. The Town is very full & a good deal of company coming every day. Charlotte Smith [the novelist] is amongst the number. She comes into the Library very often, but I have not yet glimps'd her, I wish to do it very much as she is such an interesting Character. I was quite grieved to hear of the death of poor Mrs. Whitehead. Has Mrs. Taylor given over all thoughts of coming? Its a very curious sight to see the Fish of a morning taken out of the boats for the Markett; tho there is such abundance we have not purchased mackrel under 4d. a piece & other fish in proportion. Their great Season for Herrins is now coming on, from which they derive their greatest profits. We have not heard from my Sisters, do you know if they are at Courtlodge? Mrs. Murray told me the other evening they were expected. . . ."

" Hastings, July ye 29th, 1800.

. . . Betsy heard from Alicia to other day; they [the Miss Woodgates and Alicia Ashburnham] purpose coming to Courtlodge after the first shower. Sr William

(c) Mrs. Delves, the wife of the Rev. William Delves, Vicar of Ashburnham, was daughter of Thomas Swayne of Tonbridge.

continues his kind remembrance of us. Our opposite neighbour in Mr. Croncke's lodgings is a Mr. Otley's Family, very respectable people from Cambridge; they are so good as to send us a daily paper every day. I try to make friends of them for the sake of Dr [dear] George, as Mr. Whitear tells me they have shewn his son the greatest kindness; you can't think what a clever young man he is. . . . Mrs. Children [wife of J. G. Children of Tonbridge] is at last coming to Hastings; they wrote to Miss Cossom to procure Lodgings for them. I went with her to search & got a very good one in the high street, at 5 guineas a week, since which the young Man has been down & taken a very small one at the sea at 2 & a half; she is to be brought down in a parakeen, a conveyance I have often heard yr Brother discribe as used in the East Indies. We often meet Mr. & Miss Murray, she has given us many kind Invitations to Beaupore & offered to come & fetch us at any time. I am grieved to hear the Dean of Battle continues very ill; it is lucky for him Dr. Whitfield being on the spot to do his Duty. . . ."

Mrs. J. G. Children lingered for many months at Hastings and died in the same year.

"Seal, 13th Septr, 1800.

. . . I walked yesterday to Sevenoaks with Fanny and Julia to call on Mrs. Taylor, and was very much concerned to find it in her opinion that Sea Bathing has not been of much Service to you. . . . How very unlucky to have so many of your Bottles of Wine broke! I am very much afraid you will be distrest for that article and I have it not in my power to assist you. I shall send to your Brother Henry on Monday for six Dozen. You will be surpriz'd after all my vapouring to hear that I dined at Wilderness on Thursday. It was to meet the Bishop of London and Mrs. Porteous. I thought I had done enough to express my Disapprobation of Lord C's late conduct, and that if I had declin'd this Invitation it would put a Bar to all Intercourse not only with him, but likewise with another great Man, in future. They were extremely civil and Lady Camden told me she should see Sr Walter Farquhar next Week and would be happy to deliver any Message, as she intended to have a good deal of conversation with him with regard to you. They all with the Bishop and Mrs. Porteous desir'd their particular compliments. Lord Camden and the Master of the Rolls had been that Morning to Tunbridge at the concert which was very well attended. Mrs. & Miss Taylor seemed highly delighted with Hastings, particularly the latter who very much regretted parting with you. After all their Bustle of setting off at . . . o'clock in the Morning, they were too late for the Concert, and Miss Taylor seem'd very much out of sorts that it did not suit her Father to send her the next day. Little John is now standing by me with his face array'd in a most gracious Smile; he says he longs, as we all do, to see his Mama, and Betsy likewise will be no unwelcome Guest. George has attended School [at Sevenoaks] every Day this week; I miss him very much, he is so uniformly good. How providential that the children have all enjoy'd so good a state of health during the whole of your absence. I shd not have known what to do had they been ill. . . ."

The last of the Hastings letters is dated 18th September. The sea bathing had not been as beneficial as had been expected, but it was considered likely that the good effects would be felt after returning home.

" . . . We propose leaving Hastings next Monday, & hope to be with you on Tuesday to dinner, at which happy meeting we promise ourselves not a little pleasure. I have had all the bottles packed, & our Trunk I shall direct to be left at River Hill, from whence William [their man] must fetch it. I shall continue my bathing till the day we go in the most regular manner. Mr. John George Children brought me a letter from my Sisters the other day with a £5 note Inclosed, & a particular history of the Concert. We shall sleep one night at Tunbridge. I think you was perfectly right in meeting the Bishop & Mrs. Porteous. We have called

on Mrs. Noaille & she on us. The Bakers from Chiddinstone are likewise here who had before inform'd me of Miss Kent's accident for which I was very much concern'd. . . . Our friends here are so good as to express great concern at our Departure. Poor Mr. Evet dyed last Friday very suddenly, I should be glad if you would let our Friends at River Hill know. We propose calling on them on Tuesday morning and should be glad if Mary Ann [who had been at Riverhill during her Mother's absence] wd be in readiness to return with us. We shall set out about half past 7 as I wish to take a few fish to Tunbridge. If you like to order a chaise from Sevenoaks we shall set out at ten o'clock. The Rideouts have been so civil I must call at Courtlodge. We shall depend on your sending the Chaise to Tunbridge on Tuesday. . . .

George Humphry was the second son, born in December, 1784 ; he was at Cambridge in November, 1801, when he was only sixteen years old. He was placed at Jesus College, and recommended to the patronage of the Master by his Godfather, George Hardinge, the Queen's Attorney General and Chief Justice of the Brecon circuit, in a letter which is extant :—

“ My dear Sir & Friend,

I have the courage to anticipate your thanks for promoting any favor of yours to me which it is in your power to confer, as I have recently experienced your kindest attentions & bestow'd in a manner which indicated that it gratified you to oblige & gratify me. At this place my excellent Mother has resided for several years with two of her Daughters, beloved & respected by all her Neighbours. Their pastor & friend is Mr. Humphry the Vicar of Seal, a very accomplished man, a good Scholar & a remarkably eloquent preacher, of the best principles & of the most exemplary life. He is the Father of some as promising Children as I ever knew.

The second of the sons, George Humphry, was educated partly by his Father & partly by Mr. Whitehead of your College who keeps a very admirable School at Seven Oaks. He has just left that School & his Father, who is a very able Judge of literary attainments (tho' he may be of course partial to his own offspring) reports that he is an excellent scholar in Greek and Latin. I have had no personal opportunity of appreciating, if I could, these acquisitions, & have only to say of this Young Man what none can deny, who see and converse with him, that he is. But this family who have seen more of him can further attest his goodness of heart and sweetness of temper.

His Father has a very laudable ambition for him (which the son participates) that he should not only be competent for the honor of being elected into a fellowship in that most respectable Society which has you for its head, but that he should be eminently distinguish'd as an academical Scholar. He is told that considerable stress being laid upon Mathematical science, for which in general Boys at Sevenoaks are not sufficiently put in train, it will be necessary for him to be a hard Student 8 or 9 hours in the day for the purpose of acquiring ye knowledge in Philosophy that will ensure to him the object I have stated without prejudice in that Learning in which he is grounded. But I should hope that a good capacity, which I have no doubt that he inherits from both his parents, will not require much intense application. Be that as it may (and of course temper'd as well as *guided* by the sense of the tutor) I recommend the Young Man's interest credit & fortune to your benevolent patronage & support. I have the honor to be, with high respect, my Dr Sir, your most gratefully affectionate Servant,

George Hardinge.”

Thus recommended, his career, had he lived, might have fulfilled every expectation ; he was cut off in the prime of his youth, by a stroke brought on, it seems, by his too great exertions. His first letter that remains is dated from Cambridge. 6th November, 1801, but is uninteresting and short.

He writes on November 19th, 1801.

" . . . We have twelve freshmen, viz. the Earl of Altamont, one fellow commoner, & ten pensioners, all of whom excepting three came to College before me, so that almost all the rooms were engaged previously to my arrival. Mr. Shepherd, who was at the head of Eton School for nearly a twelve month, was the one who came immediately after me, & the cheapest rooms he could get were those which had at present an income of ten pounds upon them, & upon which he is obliged to expend thirty pounds before he can possibly enter them. I called on Denny Ashburnham a few days ago, & yesterday Mr. & Mrs. Whitear called upon me & I accompanied them to Mr. Otley's, but we did not find him at home. Mr. Whitear has behaved very obligingly to me, & was so kind as to say, that if ever I should find any difficulties either in Euclid or Algebra which I could not get over, he should be very glad to assist me. . . . I am labouring hard to keep up with the young men who come out of the North in Mathematics; they come up having all Euclid and the greater part of Algebra at their fingers ends, so that it is with great difficulty that I can keep with them. They have left all from the South behind them except me, & I hope that with great assiduity I shall be able to do for them. I called on Mr. Walter this morning; he was much better than he was, his gout being nearly cured in his feet, so that he was to day for the first time able to walk out, but his hand is still very weak. John Woodward is coming next week to college to reside, I should suppose for the purpose of procuring a certificate for his scholarship; but all the rooms in the college are engaged, so that I shall not see much of him. . . ."

His next letter is dated from Cambridge, 9th February, 1802:—

" Dear Father,

I have the pleasure to inform you that I arrived at Cambridge yesterday, where I found J. Thompson ready to receive me; he is remarkably well, but I think looks rather thinner than when I last saw him. He purposes returning home very shortly. I had a very pleasant journey to Town with Mr. Hardinge; he was so obliging as to insist upon taking me to William's lodging's at Pimlico. When we were at the Inn waiting for Miss Hardinge, he wrote another letter to Dr. Pearce saying that a little civility would do no harm, & desired me to deliver it to him which I did last night. . . . I have seen both Mr. Walter & Henry W., they are quite well. Mr. Walter leaves Cambridge to-morrow."

Ten days later he writes again:—

" . . . On my arrival in Town I found my Uncle & William quite well. I went with J. Thompson on Tuesday & Wednesday Evening to Drury Lane Theatre. . . . Mr. Petley does not intend to give up his office, but means to lay down his gig, & to attend regularly to his business for a twelvemonth, at the expiration of which time he will go to Paris, where Lord Whitworth [the Ambassador] has promis'd him a good situation. A very melancholy circumstance has lately happen'd here; a young man of the name of James, whom I mentioned to you as being a particular friend of Streatfeild's, a short time ago broke a blood vessel, & last Monday week he died, & was buried on the Wednesday following in Jesus Chapple. The whole college attended his funeral. J. Thompson requests to be remembered to you, & he would be much obliged to you, if you should see his Father or his brother, to inform them he purposes writing in a few days. . . . On looking over the Cambridge Callender I find that Mr. James Walter (d) took the degree of eleventh Wrangler, which however at this time would not be more than 11th Senior optime. I drank tea with Mr. Whitear yesterday, & stayed with him till nine, during which

(d) For some account of this family, see note on* Humphry's friend Walter seems to have lived at Seal, where Miss Walter was also living. Subsequently they lived at Brenchley, or Marden. In 1805, Sarah, daughter of William Walter, Esq., of Jewell House, Brenchley, married Thomas Hooker of Brenchley. There seem to have been at least four sons: Stephen, John, James, and J. A. Walter. The Rev. Weaver Walter was at Penshurst in 1793.

* See Reference Sheet.

time he instructed me in Euclid & Algebra. He informed me that Mr. D. Ashburnham had desired him to procure him apartments in the Town, as he & Mrs. Bancroft were coming to Camb. next Tuesday. . . .”

John Thompson was a grandson of Thomas Thompson of Seal, and great nephew of Mrs. Woodgate of Mountfield. Denny Ashburnham married Mrs. Bancroft. George Humphry had taken Streatfeild's rooms, and with them the greater part of the furniture. The letter to Dr. Pearce had the desired effect.

“ Cambridge, March 26th, 1802.

. . . Dr. Pearce sent for me a few days ago to inform me that he had received a letter from Mr. George Hardinge, in which he spoke very highly in my favour & told Dr. Pearce that he would esteem it a particular favour if he would serve me in any manner that might lie in his power ; which Dr. Pearce assured me he would, & desired me, when I next saw Mr. George Hardinge, to inform him that he had made a point of mentioning to me the receipt of his letter, & that he certainly would comply with his wishes ; & he added that had he heard nothing from Mr. Hardinge, he would certainly, from what he had heard from Mr. Whitehead, have done every thing in his power to serve me ; but you may depend upon it that that would not have been the case ; whereas now there is little doubt of my having some scholarship or other. I called on Mr. & Mrs. D. Ashburnham a few days since ; they were remarkably civil to me, & enquired particularly after all my Seal Friends. Mr. Whithear went to Town last Monday & is not yet returned. . . . Mr. Moore, T. Thompson & George Austen are coming at Easter to pay John Thompson a visit.”

“ Cambridge, April ye 13th, 1802.

My dear Father,

. . . Mr. Whithear went to Town yesterday, where he means to stay the whole vacation ; he will meet his Father in Cambridge, & he thought it very likely that he would accompany him back to Cambridge. Mr. Whithear went to Town about a month ago, at which time he was ordained a Deacon by the Bishop of Chichester. . . . I suppose you have heard that Streatfeild means to join the party which is shortly coming from Sevenoaks to Cambridge. John Thompson desires particularly to be remembered to you. The famous Sir Edward Hamilton is admitted a Nobleman of Emmanuel College, & dined the other day in our Hall.”

About a week later he mentions that he had taken much exercise lately in walking round with Mr. Moore to visit all the colleges. He was much pleased with the civility of the Ashburnhams ; Mrs. Denny Ashburnham, he declared, was remarkably good tempered. He writes on 7th May :—

“ John Thompson desires me to present his respects ; he went to Town last week with some of his fellow students to see the Illuminations, & he was so fortunate as to meet both his father & his brother. I drank tea last Monday with Mr. D. Ashburnham ; his brother William intends paying him a visit at Cambridge in the course of a fortnight. There is at present an election here, which occasions a great deal of riot & confusion. The Candidates are Lord Charles Somerset Manners & Sir Henry Peyton ; it has already lasted three days, & there is a great probability that it will last some days longer, though Sir H. Peyton has greatly the advantage. I have seen a catalogue of the exhibitions ; your picture, which my uncle had painted by Mr. Spicer, & which he intends as a present for my mother, was in the exhibition. . . .”

On the election day the gates were shut, to prevent the undergraduates from participating in the confusion. He writes in June :—

“ I saw Mr. D. Ashburnham this morning, & he desires particularly to be remembered to you & all my friends. He has taken a house near Windsor, for which place he & Mrs. Ashburnham set off to-morrow ; he went to look at the house

which Lady Radcliffe formerly had, but found it far too large for his purpose. Mrs. Ashburnham dislikes Cambridge so much that she declares she will not accompany Mr. A. when he returns in October. Mr. W. Ashburnham left Cambridge about a fortnight since. Mr. Whithear also left Cambridge about the same time; the reason of his leaving so soon was that he received a letter from his father, in which he said that he was very unwell, & that he should be very glad if he could come to Hastings & do his duty for him. . . ."

In September, 1802, it was found necessary for George Humphry to recruit his health at Hastings. His friend W. Whitear found some lodgings for him at Miss Dutton's, whence he writes on the 16th:—

"On my arrival at Tunbridge I found all my Aunts [Woodgate] quite well; they meant to have sent a parcel by me to Miss Ashburnham on Monday, but when they found that I was not arrived, they sent it by the coach. I saw my Uncle William [of Summerhill] at Tunbridge who informed me that my Aunt Woodgate was so ill as to be obliged to keep her bed; he desired particularly to be remembered to all my family. . . . There is to be a grand ball at Hastings to-night, which Miss Ashburnham & all her Brothers will attend; it is expected to be a very good one, as there is at present a great deal of company at Hastings. Mr. John Scoones has been staying for the last month at Miss Dutton's, but leaves Hastings I believe on Saturday*."

He writes again on the 26th:—

" . . . I am happy to say that bathing agrees with me perfectly well, as I think that I am much heartier than when I left Seal. I had the pleasure of seeing Miss Ashburnham & her brothers William & Denny at Hastings on Tuesday; they were remarkably civil to me & invited me very particularly to come to Broomham; but as they did not mention a conveyance, I think that to walk there & back again the same day is too great an undertaking for me at present. I have seen a great deal of George Ashburnham since I have been here; we walk together constantly every day. He desires to be kindly remembered to all my family. I have met Mrs. Nouaille several times; she is always very civil, & desired that I would call upon her, which I accordingly did. She said that she hoped when her Gentlemen returned that I would come & eat some mutton with her. I dined at Mr. Whithear's with Mr. George Ashburnham last Thursday; Mr. & Mrs. North were of the party. They all desired to be remembered to my friends when I next wrote. . . ."

Elizabeth, the daughter of the Rev. William Whitear, Vicar of St. Clements and All Saints, Hastings, married in 1799 Mr. Francis Frederick North, of Rougham Hall and of Hastings Lodge. Their son, who was Member for Hastings, and his family are constantly mentioned in Chap. VI. George Humphry returned to Cambridge, in renewed health, in October, whence he writes on 1st November:—

"Mr. Weaver Walter left Cambridge on Saturday last: he purposed being at Seal on Thursday. I have seen a great deal of Harry Walter since I have been here, he appears to be remarkably good tempered. Dr. Pearce has made John Thompson the offer of a curacy near Newmarket, Mr. Wollaston the rector wishing to go abroad for three years. There is a very good house & garden, but Dr. Pearce said that he believed there could be but a small stipend. He has written to his father to know his pleasure before he gives the Doctor a decisive answer."

That month the pain in his side, and his cough, returned.

"My Uncle Humphry," he says, "has a most beautiful picture of you in Miniature, painted by Mr. Spicer from that painting of you which Mr. Spicer has in his possession, & he intends it as a present for my Mother; it is much larger than that picture which she has of my Uncle. With respect to what you mentioned of Mr. G. Hardinge, I have observed no alteration whatever in the Dr's. Behaviour. . . ."

In February, 1803, his cough evidently became very troublesome, though he does not enlarge upon it in his letters. He says :—

“ I received a letter from Mr. Hardinge on Sunday in which he desired me to go to Dr. Pearce & request him to procure a copy of some Latin Verses, which Mr. Hardinge wrote when at Cambridge, but which he has now lost, as he wishes to print some of his Latin Verses for the use of partial friends alone. Dr. Pearce desired me to defer answering his letter for about a week, by which time he hoped to be able to procure them. . . . My Uncle called one day when I was in Town at Mr. Long's, & left a note to be forwarded to Mrs. P. Nouaille [formerly Anne Woodgate of Summerhill]; he talks of advising Mr. P. Nouaille to employ a Mr. Singleton, an indigent friend of his, to paint him a cabinet of Miniatures. I have seen Mr. Denny Ashburnham who is quite well; Mrs. Ashburnham purposes coming to Cambridge after Easter.”

Mr. Hardinge's verses, consisting of about a hundred lines, were duly copied by George Humphry and sent off. He mentions the intended visit of his uncle Ozias Humphry, on his way to Ely. He writes on 20th March :—

“ I have seen a great deal of Mr. D. Ashburnham lately, he desires to be kindly remembered to you whenever I write. He is going shortly to his house near Windsor, where Mr. W. Ashburnham & Miss Ashburnham are to make him a visit during the vacation. I was very sorry to hear that John Thompson had been so unfortunate as to lose the curacy of Otford, which I thought he seemed to have a very fair chance of obtaining.”

On the 25th March he states his cough to be rapidly improving; but the report in his last letter is worse.

“ Cambridge, April 17th, 1803.

I am sorry to say that, though I find myself getting gradually better every day, nevertheless being considerably reduced & weakened by my complaints I am unable at present to fix any time for returning home. My cough has likewise been lately very troublesome; Dr. Davy was with me this morning; he says that he will send me a plaister to be placed on my breast, which he has no doubt will greatly relieve it. He likewise means to make some alterations in my draughts which I continue to take in the same quantities as when I last wrote. It certainly would be the most agreeable thing to me, & what my Drs highly approve of, to be taken home the same day in a Post chaise, as the chance of meeting with a damp bed is by far the most formidable part of my journey. Mr. Otter is not at present in College. It is rather unlucky that I am obliged to miss Mr. Caldwell's lectures in Longinus next term, as I think that I should have gained some little credit; the other lectures are not of any great consequence. J. Thompson arrived at Cambridge yesterday, quite well. H. Walter is likewise quite well. Mr. Whithear left Cambridge a fortnight ago, I expect him to return every day. John Thompson desires to be kindly remembered & with my kindest love & remembrance to all my friends, believe me, dear Father, your most dutiful son

G. U. Humphry.”

On 24th April, his brother writes from Seal :—

“ We were all of us very much grieved to hear so unfavourable an account of your Health. My Father intends going to town to-morrow, and if he can get a place on Tuesday in the Telegraph you may expect to see him on that Day at the usual Time of the Coaches' arrival. It is his intention to return the next Morning and take you with him if you are well enough to undertake the journey, and travelling by easy stages he hopes you will reach Home on Thursday. My Father wishes you to collect the Bills before his arrival that he may settle them before he leaves Cambridge. I am happy to say, I have found great benefit from the Seal air [he had himself been very ill] and sincerely hope you will derive equal benefit from it. Your friend John Thompson will I dare say assist you in packing your things.

We are all very well at Home and unite in kindest Love with, Dr George, your affectionate Brother

W. O. Humphry."

George Humphry, of whom such great things had been expected, died on 14th May, 1803. Dr. Pearce wrote a handsome letter on the occasion :—

" Ely, June 2, 1803.

Dear Sir,

Having been absent from Cambridge for the last month, I did not hear till a day or two ago of the melancholy termination of your Son's illness. I hope it will be some consolation to you that your Son has done his duty, & that his memory will be long regretted by all at Jesus College, as a young Man of very promising abilities and most excellent disposition. Our Society shewed their sense of his merit by electing him, not long ago, into the best Exhibition they have in their gift. This indeed will not remove your grief, but it will have the effect of soothing & softening it, by intermingling every agreeable recollection which his early life was capable of suggesting. With every good wish for your comfort under this severe Loss, & with great esteem I am, dear Sir, your truly obedient & faithful Servant

William Pearce."

Mr. Hardinge's elegiacs over his godson are well worthy a place, though to some they may be unintelligible.

" EPITHAMIUM.

Qui loquitur Pater est ; " Hoc nati cernite Marmor,

" Umbraque per vitam sit renovanda Fidem.

" Cernite adumbratas virtutes Fratris adepti

" Nec Desiderii cedat inermis Amor.

" Ingenio dotatus, et artibus auctus honestis,

" Doctrinæ ingenûus Moribus erubruit.

" Ex humili officio nunquam defluxit amorem,

" Nec placido in studiis deficit obsequio.

" Non illum affectus Animi sapuere jurentes

" Non Amor illicebri, impulit, arma ferens.

" Festinante viro ;—licet in juvenalibus armis

" Purus aut Infantum, spiritus interiiit."

These lines have been translated by the author.

" EPITAPH.

A parent speaks :—' My son's this marble view,

And in your own, your Brother's life renew.

With talents gifted and with arts improved,

His blushes graced the Science that he loved.

From Duty's path his genius never strayed,

His temper blest the guides that he obeyed ;

No turbulence of passion, foe to rest,

Could stir the calm of his unsullied breast ;

Though on the verge of Man, his parting breath

He died in purity — an ' infant's death. '

" I threw some thoughts together," he says, " upon my ever beloved and lamented namesake ; accept them with your accustom'd indulgence to me. They are like himself, modest in their colouring & the characters of truth."

That his death came as a surprise to the family, the following letter will show :—

" Rect. of Exchequer, 16 of May, 1803.

Dear Father,

I recd this morning a letter from my Uncle Henry [Woodgate] informing me of the melancholy event of my poor Brother's death. I confess that it was as

unexpected as it is afflicting to me, for I had no idea from what Betsy wrote that he was so near his end ; on the contrary, I entertained hopes that he was likely to recover, but as it has pleased Providence to order it otherwise it behoves us to submit with resignation to the divine will, & to indulge the pleasing consolation that from the uniform benevolence & piety of his Life he is removed from a world of trouble to a blessed state of immortality, & must live dear in the remembrance of us all to the end of our lives. My Uncle having mentioned that you desired to see me at Seal, I intend to come down to-morrow either by the Tunbridge Coach or the caravan. I have not yet informed my Uncle of the severe loss we have sustained, but am certain he will partake most sincerely of our grief. With best affections to my Mother, to my sisters & to John, I remain your dutiful son

W. O. Humphry."

On the South wall of Seal Church is the following inscription :—

"In memory of
George Upcot Humphry
of Jesus College, Cambridge, second
son of the
Reverend William Humphry, Vicar of this parish
and Elizabeth his wife.
He was born Decr. 10th, 1784
and died May 14th, 1803."

William Humphry went to Cambridge to collect the effects, and brought home the linen, silver, private papers, &c.

The correspondence is resumed some months later by Elizabeth Humphry in a letter to her mother, at Tunbridge :—

" Seal, September ye 21, 1803.

My dear Mama,

My Papa had the pleasure of receiving your kind letter this morning, and it made us very happy to hear of your safe arrival at Tunbridge, and that you found all our Friends perfectly well. It must have been extremely disagreeable meeting so many Hop waggons, and we think it a very good plan your returning on Sunday evening. . . . My Papa spent a very pleasant day at Lord Camden's yesterday ; their party was Mr. Willard, Mr. Kelson and an officer from Sevenoaks. My Papa there heard that Mr. Claridge has bought of Captain Boarder the reversion of the late Mr. Farmer's estate, for which he was to pay Captain Boarder an annuity for life ; and he likewise heard, which I was very happy to hear, that Lord Whitworth [who had married the Duchess of Dorset] had made it up between him and the gentlemen, and it is agreed that he is to be an officer in the Regiment. I hear Mr. Atkins is going out of Lord Camden's troop [of Yeomanry] and that he is to be ensign in Mr. M. Austen's Company. I dare say that you have heard from Major Woodgate [of Tunbridge Castle] that there is to be a review in Knole Park next Friday. . . ."

Lord Whitworth was the Lieut.-Colonel of the Sevenoaks Volunteer Infantry ; among the Captains were F. Motley Austen, Henry Woodgate of Riverhill, and George Polhill. Lord Camden commanded the Kentish yeomanry. Lord Darnley was the Lieut.-Colonel, and William Woodgate was the Major. Charles Willard was Cornet in Lord Camden's troop.

In 1804 and 1805 Mrs. Humphry and Mary Anne accompanied Mrs. Pratt to Sandgate, where they spent some weeks. Mrs. Pratt was a sister of Mrs. Hardinge, and an unmarried lady, the term Mrs. being a courtesy title. Mrs. Humphry's first letter from Sandgate is dated 10th October, 1804, in which, referring to their drive to Dover, she writes to Julia :—

" We spent a most charming Morning as the day was so fine, and the scene so new to us. I think yr Pappa has been at Dover ; the views are uncommonly grand.

We walk'd on the Pier & admired the Shakespeare Cliff; we cd not get to see the inside of the Castle as they will not admit strangers at this time. The entrenchments they have thrown up are astonishing. Mrs. Pratt gave her whole party a most hospitable Dinner at one of the best Inns, & we return'd home to tea in the afternoon, highly gratified with our day. Our party at present is rather thin as Mr. Martin returned to Hays last Saturday to do his Duty, but I believe he or Mr. Robenson are to come at the week's end. . . . Mrs. Pratt is both in uncommon good health & looks, & rises every morning to Breakfast at nine o'clock. The weather is grown much colder but as yet we have had no fires; this I dare say astonishes you but one seldom feels cold by the sea, & our bed room is full south. Mr. Martin's absence has a little deranged our whist party, as we are obliged to supply his place with a *dumb*, which is not quite agreeable to Mrs. Rush, & Mrs. Pratt will not associate with any one in the place. I fear I cannot fix the day for our return, but hope to be able in my next letter. We have never had the smallest fright on account of the Enemy, tho you read such frightful accounts in the paper; was you to see the astonishing preparations all round the Coast, you wd think us safe enough in this quarter; we are so surrounded by Military & the Soldiers wearing scarlet that a Black coat is quite rare amongst us. . . ."

In 1805, when Elizabeth Humphry was also of the party, Mrs. Humphry writes:—

" . . . Mrs. Pratt desires you will thank Brother Henry [Woodgate of Riverhill] for the Pheasants which arrived at the proper time, & at the same time inform him we drank his & his Family's health each day when we partook of his Liberality. General Moore [better known as Sir John Moore] & his Regiment have just received orders to leave Sandgate to morrow to join the Expedition; his Aid-de-Camp Abercomby went a few days ago; does our Nephew [John Woodgate] join the Regiment on this occasion? I am happy to hear Brother Henry is so well pleased with the General's behaviour. Mrs. Pratt with myself & Mary Ann called at Acrise on Wednesday; Mrs. Papillon kindly insisted on Mary Ann's spending the day with her young people & she would send her to Folkestone the next Morning with her children who were going to bathe. She return'd the next morning highly delighted with her visit. Our next neighbour is a Mr. & Mrs. Sawbridge, particular Friends of Mrs. General Moore's; at present his brother & sister are with him, Miss Twisden that was."

In 1806, Mary Anne alone of the Humphrys joined the party. Her mother writes to her, at Sandgate (13th September, 1806):—

" . . . The day you left us we were going to spend the day at River Hill where we met Sir Richard & Lady Hardinge, Mr. & Mrs. Biscow & their son & Mr. Whitehead; we spent a very pleasant day, & the young people had a dance in the evening. We had some very excellent Fruit from the Mayes's Hot house. Betsy & myself have this morning taken a drive to Sevenoaks, on our return we called on Mrs. Nouaille. The House is in the greatest confusion & they are at this time painting the dining parlour. Capt'n & Mrs. Thomas are returned with them; *she* expressed great satisfaction that they are returned *home*. Your uncle is still with us; he means to take his Departure next Friday. He with Julia & Fanny made Mrs. Round a visit last Monday. Mrs. Pelham with Sir Henry Strachan's Family made a visit to the Grove & took Miss Fanny [Hardinge, afterwards Mrs. Stephen Woodgate] home in the evening. Miss Scoones was married at Tunbridge yesterday; Mrs. Nouaille said they were almost stunned with the ringing of the Bells. . . ."

There is a letter of Julia's a few days later:—

" . . . We have walked to Seven Oaks several times lately and Paid a great many Visits. We call'd at Mr. Taylor's where we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. & Mrs. Ilbert who were come from Eltham to spend a Day with their Father. I think they seem much pleased with their House and Situation. I really think Mr.

Taylor looks better than he did some time ago. The Miss Stiles have been staying with Mrs. Curteis for the last Month. . . . We have had an Invitation from Sir Richard and Lady Hardinge. We all point upon spending a very agreeable Morning. The Players are very much approved off, and all the Families go very frequently to see them ; we have not yet been so fortunate as to have that pleasure, but we hope we shall go some Evening soon.”

The following year John Humphry died, aged 12. He had always been delicate, and suffered latterly from ague and other complaints. He rode out every morning on a pony, but nothing was of any benefit to his health*. He was buried on 13th March at Seal, where there is an inscription to his memory on the same tablet as that of his brother :—

“Likewise of John the third son
who was born April 30th, 1794
and died March 8th, 1807.”

In 1810, Ozias Humphry died. He writes in the previous year from the Prince of Wales Hotel, 7th January :—

“ Few things, my dear Mary Anne, could have afforded me more real pleasure than the receipt of your truly obliging & affectionate Letter, and altho’ I never had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Henry Woodgate [of Spring Grove], yet never having heard her name mentioned but with much credit to her, I never can reflect upon her loss but with sorrow. It is however some consolation to know that you are to be more closely connected with the late Mrs. Hardinge’s Family by the marriage of the amiable Miss Hardinge with your cousin Stephen [Woodgate]. Your acct of Lord Amherst’s Ball interested me much, but the world can not well account for his Lordship’s quitting England in a diplomatic capacity with so large a Family unless it be to add the pension to his other Income. I wish my Brother to be informed that the late Mr. Hare had the day before his sudden death completed a task of many years Labor, wch it is expected will do him great Honour. The Bishop of Durham and many other dignitaries of the Church recommend that it may be sold for the Benefit of his Widow, who is not over rich, and whose only son is serving with the Army in Spain—an uncommonly promising young officer who serv’d in Malta & Egypt with particular distinction. . . . I will avail myself of Mr. Noaille’s . . . as soon as the weather is a little suitable. Pray let Mr. P. Noaille know that both Mr. Lawrence [afterwards Sir Thomas Lawrence] & Mr. Daniell are thankful for his kind Invitation, & will gladly accompany me into Kent in the Spring for two or three days, but I imagine not to shoot or hunt or fish, neither of them being a Sportsman, but will come to see Kent, wch is abundantly interesting.”

That year Mr. Humphry evidently applied for some official post, as we learn from William’s letter :—

“ Council Office, Whitehall,
1st Feb., 1809.

Dear Julia,

. . . . I have been greatly disappointed not to have heard any thing further on the subject of Lord Camden’s Application in behalf of my Father, particularly since by a recent Appointment the Question depending must have been brought to an issue. I trust that should my Father be disappointed on the present occasion, he will receive a Promise to succeed on the first vacancy that occurs ; certainly a more than ordinary share of ill Fortune will attend him if he fails to get something, for there seems no Apprehension now that the Ministers will go out, Affairs in Spain having terminated so much better than at one Time could possibly have been expected. I really think our Army have performed Wonders, considering how critically they

*See Reference Sheet.

were situated ; I apprehended and it appeared to be the general opinion that the whole of them would have been lost. Great Credit is given to the Commanding officers for their Conduct and for their personal Gallantry in Action, at what hazard to themselves the Event has shewn, but to which Circumstance is chiefly attributed the safety of the Army. My Uncle called on me last Friday to get a Letter frank'd for Mr. Acton who had lately sent him a basket of Game, I am happy to say that he appeared remarkably well. I was so much pleased with your Letter that I hope you will let me hear from you often, as there is no Expence attending the Postage."

In July, when Mary Anne was staying at Brighton with the James Wests,* her mother writes to her :—

" . . . I am sorry to tell you that Miss Hardinge has been seriously ill with a sore throat this week, she is now better but does not recover so fast as one could wish ; Mrs. Pelham is with them at this time. Mr. Irwin was so good as to give you Pappa a Sermon this Morning. He is come to stay at Wilderness with ye younger Branches of the Family. Ld. & Lady Camden with Lady Frances came down last night, but return to Town early on Monday morning. I fear the news is very bad indeed. I received a letter from your Uncle Humphry yesterday intimating that he intended coming to us this week for a few days, as he has some business to transact with the Dutchess & Ld. Whitworth. . . . I hear all the Thomas' are soon going to either Hastings or Brighton. Mrs. Nouaille is to bring some of the Family to morrow to spend a week at Greatness. . . ."

On 9th March, 1810, Ozias Humphry died at the age of 67, and was interred in the burying ground attached to St. James' Chapel, Hampstead Road. He was generally considered the first miniature painter of the day ; for a more circumstantial account of his life the reader is referred to the *Gentlemen's Magazine* of April, 1810, and to the *Dictionary of National Biography*. It does not seem that he left much property except some valuable pictures ; the bulk of these would appear by him to have been left to his kinsman, William Upcott, of the London Institution, a man very prominent in the world of books. Many of these were sold far, very far below their real value ; some were sold with Hoppner's collection, and others with those of Romney—who had accompanied Humphry to Italy. William Upcott writes on 21st May, 1800 :—

" Mr. Christie. . . . judged it most prudent to defer the sale for a few days, when they will appear with Romney's Productions, which will be disposed of at the same time. This I consider a singular circumstance, after the close intimacy which subsisted between these two characters in early life, then a studied coolness on the part of Romney which lasted till death separated them, and at length that their various performances should be exposed for public sale at one and the same time, is a circumstance quite unlooked for, and in a small degree somewhat extraordinary."

Mr. Humphry possessed several paintings executed for the Duke of Dorset ; a few family paintings ; and amongst others some which at his death could not be discovered. We believe that there is at Knole a very good portrait of Humphry, painted by Romney.

Whilst upon this subject, it is appropriate to mention that Upcott procured for himself considerable distinction, and died in 1846. There are several of his letters, the latest of which addressed to Mrs. Humphry, and dated April 28th, 1818, refers to some of his labours. In it he says :—

" John Evelyn's Diary is out in 2 Vols 4to, which has cost me many a painful hour to transcribe & see in part thro' the Press, and I hear a very flattering account of its sale, in which I am very much interested ; the late Lady Evelyn generously granted me a share of the profits. My own trifling work on Topography is *all sold*

* See Reference Sheet.

off, never to be reprinted by me. Little more than literary fame was the issue of this production, but I have received several kind letters from Earl Spencer, Sir R. C. Hoare and others, expressive of their opinion of my undertaking. At present I shall desist from further attempts. My eyes have been so much tried that I find it absolutely necessary to give them rest, and turn my attention towards the completion of my various *hobbies* which have been too long neglected."

To return, however, to William Humphry, whose next letter is dated from Whitehall, 8th June, 1800 :—

" . . . I have not seen Mr. Upcot for some Days ; at that Time he did not know when the sale of my Uncle's Pictures would take place, Mr. Christie having so many other things in Hand which were brought to him before that he was obliged to dispose of first. This is a very unlucky circumstance as the Season is now getting advanced, and will I fear prove prejudicial to their Sale. The Dutchesse has written to him to send the Miniatures back to her, that she might shew them to a Person for ascertaining their value ; what has happened since I have not heard. He talked of coming down for a Day or two, he does not know that I am prevented from leaving Town, for I have been so much occupied that I have not been able to go to him. For some Time I have been employed every Night till one or two in the Morning. I have heard that my Father did not succeed in selling his Farm, but bought it in for £2,075. Fanny I conclude is returned from visiting her Aunts. . . ."

Mr. Upcot made several visits to Seal. William's arduous duties gradually undermined his health, which appears to have been none of the strongest, and he died comparatively a young man. Mrs. Humphry's is the next letter, dated 30th June, 1800 :—

" . . . Our Grove Friends are to drink tea with us this afternoon with Mrs. Sackville Austen [a sister of Mr. Multon Lambard]. We have heard that there is a match going on between Lady Frances Pratt & Ld. Clive, a son of Ld. Powis, a young man very well spoken of ; he has a fortune of near Thirty Thousand a year independent of his Father ; I think it appears very likely to take place. I shall be rejoiced to see Mrs. West to-morrow & hope she will bring one of her little Boys at least. Fanny is delighted at the thoughts of her Brighton excursion. I should have asked Miss Fanny Hardinge to meet Mrs. West, but Mr. Bowdler's Family are coming to them to-morrow. I hope some of the Riverhill Family will join our party. . . ."

The last letter of Elizabeth Humphry (the daughter) is undated, but falls between 1810-12, and is addressed to her sister at Tunbridge :—

" Seal, June 18th.

My dear Fanny,

I should have written to you some days ago, but I knew Mary [a servant] was going to Tunbridge to be confirmed, and I thought it would be a nice opportunity of sending you a Letter. . . . We begin to think you have made my Aunts a very sociable Visit, & we all depend upon your returning soon. We all point very much upon seeing my Aunts ; & I hope after Mrs. West's Christening, which if I am not mistaken is next Wednesday, they may fix an early day when we may have the pleasure of seeing them & you. The Mrs. Hardinge's were very much pleased with their little Excursion to Hastings ; they said Mrs. Nouaille was very well and able to exert herself more than anybody, but that she did not recover her looks at all. We had but a very small party at Seal Fair ; the Mrs. Hardinges dined with us, & Mrs. Francis Woodgate [son of Henry of Riverhill] & Miss Maypleton came in the Evening. My Sisters and myself called on Lady Hardinge last Friday ; she received us with her usual good humour and shewed us all over her House, which has been new papered, and a great many beautiful Pictures put up since we were there in the Winter ; afterwards we walked in the gardens which are really delightful. Mrs. F. Woodgate's Sister Mrs. Willis is coming this Week to stay

at Godden ; Francis has invited us to drink tea with them next Thursday to meet her, he is to send his Carriage for my Mother. I fear Mr. Spencer has forgot his annual present, as he has always sent it long before this. Mrs. & Miss Lambard & Miss Hallard [Mr. Lambard's niece] called upon us last week, the latter is come to stay in this neighbourhood a great part of the Summer. She and the three eldest Miss Lambards are going next week to Oxford, to be present at the Installation ; it must be particularly agreeable to Miss Hallard as she has two Brothers there. We have set out our Plants, except the Orange tree, & new potted them & I hope they look tolerably well. We have not been able to raise any of the choice cuttings Mrs. Woodgate gave you & Julia, I think it was too early in the year to plant them. We are very much disappointed that the Visitation [at Tunbridge School] is not held this year at Tunbridge, as we should have liked of all things to have made my Aunts a visit & brought you home. My Father begins mowing at Godden to morrow. . . .”

In November, 1810, Mrs. Humphry met with a disagreeable accident ; when walking in Mrs. Nouaille's greenhouse, she slipped and fell with so much violence that she dislocated her wrist and severely bruised her side, in consequence of which she was lame for many weeks.

On 1st June, 1811, Stephen Woodgate died at his house at Fawke, in Seal, after a lingering illness, aged 66. He was by profession a lawyer, and practised at Sevenoaks (e). He was a bachelor, and figures but slightly in the letters. In 1794, when Volunteer corps were forming all over Kent and a county subscription was opened, he subscribed £21, and with Mr. John Fellowes Claridge, Deputy Clerk of the Peace and Attorney at Law, was appointed to receive the subscriptions in the Sevenoaks neighbourhood. He was an officer in one of the Volunteer bodies ; for in 1799, after the great review of the Kentish Volunteers at the Mote by the King, a meeting was held to consider some public memorial to Lord Romney, and the preliminary notice signed by several of the officers, amongst whom was Stephen Woodgate.

But one letter from his pen survives, addressed to Mrs. Humphry :—

“ My dear Madam,

I am very much obliged by your Invitation for Friday and I trust you will excuse my waiting upon you ; I have not dined *from home* since I was *with you* but when I have been called out on Business. Mr. Humphry was talking to my Servant about some Knives and Forks ; pray let me know what you want and they shall be sent to you. Also, if you stand in need of any Fowls, I have some in the coop, which have been up some days and ready for slaughter, much at your service, and likewise *Ducks*.

I hope Mr. H. and the *Ladies* are well ; pray make my Remembrances and believe me to be,

Dr. Madm.,

Very sincerely yours,

Godden Green, Tuesday Mornng.

Stepn. Woodgate.”

Intelligence of his death was communicated to Julia Humphry and Stephen's sisters at Tonbridge by Mary Anne, in a letter dated from Seal the day after the event :—

“ After we reached home last night we learnt the melancholy intelligence of the death of our poor Uncle Stephen. We were in a great measure prepared for the event from the sad state he has been in for the last week. You will no doubt have heard the particulars of his death before you receive this letter. I hope my

(e) Stephen Woodgate of Shire Lane was sworn and enrolled an Attorney of the Queen's Bench on 30th April, 1768, before Lord Mansfield. In 1781, Stephen Woodgate and William Norton (his clerk) attest the will of Mary Boakes of Chidingstone.

Aunts are as well as can be expected after the great shock, it must be a great consolation to them that his last hours were so tranquil, & that he appear'd to suffer so little pain.

We have sent your mourning. As you desired to know what we intend doing on this occasion, I must inform you that Elizabeth purposes having a black sarcinet gown, Fanny & myself a fine black cambric muslin, & we would advise you to do the same ; we shall make them with an high & low Top for the sake of convenience."

Mrs. Humphry adds a line on the fold :—

"I am sure my dear Sisters we condole equally with each other's loss of our poor Brother. It was a great comfort to hear he went off in the easiest manner possible. I have not heard or seen any one from River Hill nor do we know when or where the Funeral is to take place. We shall hope for a line by the return of George to know how you all do."

We do not at present know what property Stephen Woodgate left nor what became of it ; his father had left to him Chested, Seedrups, Gildredge, Frinden, Tophill, and other lands in Chidingstone and Penshurst, besides which his uncle, Henry Woodgate of Summerhill, had left him a valuable legacy.

The same letter that announced Stephen Woodgate's death contained intelligence of another :—

"Poor Miss Loyd expired last Thursday ; she returned from Tunbridge Wells only two days previous to her decease. Her poor Mother, we understand, is almost heartbroken, as she had flattered herself to the last that her Daughter would have recovered. They applied to my Papa to have a vault made in Kemping Church. Pray remember me to Mrs. West, we were much disappointed at not seeing her little girl at the window as we returned home [from Tunbridge]. If my Aunts have quite done with *The Lady of the Lake* perhaps they will have the goodness to send it back in your hat box, as they are all here very anxious to read it. . . ."

The same writer resumes the pen three weeks later :—

"My dear Julia,

We were in great hopes before this that we should have had a conveyance for sending you a letter, but as no such offer arrives I shall not longer defer writing to you. Our Cousins at River Hill called upon us last Friday, they told us what a pleasant Day they had spent with my Aunts, & that *they* were to dine at River Hill the latter end of this week ; next week we hope to have the pleasure of their Company for they must consider that the Summer is spending very fast & that the longest Day is already gone by. Our Haymaking at Godding was completed last Saturday, it was all carried in the best order & finished just before the rain came ; I think so far we have been particularly fortunate.

My sisters have been staying at the Vine for the last week ; Fanny went the first part of the week and Elizabeth the latter end. Lady Hardinge is uncommonly well and they spent their time in the most agreeable manner. I dined there on Saturday ; the Mrs. Hardinges carried me, but first we made a great many visits & among the rest called upon a Mrs. Lockhart (a lady who has taken the Cottage Mrs. Cumberland formerly had at Vessel's Green for her Summer Residence). Miss Otway is to leave her present Habitation at Riverhead to Day, she is going into that of the late Mrs. Blencowe's at Sevenoaks. Lady Russel has taken her House for three months after which it is said Sir Charles & Lady Farnaby are to have it. We hear that Mr. George Austen & Miss Hunse [?] are certainly to make a match of it ; possibly there may be no foundation for this & that it is only an old Report again revived. Mrs. Papillon & some of her Daughters, with Mr. & Mrs. Thursby & their Family, are coming to the Grove to Day to spend a week. We are to drink tea there to-morrow. We have called upon Mrs. Nouaille several times lately ; I am sorry to say she does not improve much in health, she thinks her complaint inter-

mitting; her Friends wish her very much to have further advise. Sir Richard Hardinge has some Idea of parting with his House on the Vine. He has offered the Lease to Mr. Lambard but he has refused it; Miss Coddington has applied for it, but it is not thought she will take it as she is always in search of a House & can never meet with one quite agreeable to her wishes. I think they will be a great loss to the neighbourhood as they have certainly contributed to enliven it very much. Sir Richd. is undoubtedly a very whimsical man & never is satisfied with a House for any length of time. You remember Miss King who was formerly so much with Lady Hardinge, she is to be married to a Clergyman & settled in Ireland. . . ."

Sir Richard Hardinge removed from Sevenoaks to Sundridge. His original home was in Ireland. He was for two years (1810-12) a Captain in the Sevenoaks Militia; and an original member of the Kentish Bowmen. He seems to have participated in the various amusements and business of the neighbourhood.

In 1811 some correspondence passed with the Rev. W. Tucker of Honiton, one of Mr. Humphry's earliest friends, over a gravestone which the latter desired should be erected to the memory of his mother. Ozias Humphry declared that he intended some lasting memorial of his parents by presenting some good specimens of art in the chancel of the church. For that purpose he intended leaving a thousand pounds. He had already obtained designs from his friend James Wyatt, Surveyor General to the Board of Works; but the scheme fell through. The less ambitious project was successfully carried out.

Meanwhile, in March of 1812, Sarah Woodgate of Tonbridge died. From that time one of the Humphrys was almost constantly with their aunt Rose Woodgate, who lived till 1827. Soon after the death, Mary Anne Humphry writes from Tonbridge, in April:—

"My dear Julia,

I received your kind letter Tuesday Afternoon, which was left here by Sir Richd. Hardinge's Servant. I understand Mr. Nouaille was prevented coming to Tunbridge on Monday by the Illness of his Coachman, which accounts for my not receiving my mourning on that Day. . . . I suppose you have heard of the intended Gala at the Powder Mills on Saturday; tickets have been sent round to the whole neighbourhood to invite them to inspect the works & partake of a cold Collation. If the Weather is fine, I am to accompany the Thomas's. Mr. Burton has sold Bowden to a Gentleman of the name of Morrison, formerly of Dr. Knox's School. We hear they are likely to prove a great Acquisition to the neighbourhood. Miss Harvey tells me that Mr. Bayley is Brother to the Subdean of Lincoln; he is said to be advanced in Life & very infirm. Mr. Nouaille has purchased Capt'n. Thomas' House, & I believe it is settled that the Family remain at Tunbridge. Mrs. West is much better; she intended having a large Party last night, but was obliged to postpone it from the Death of Mr. Matthews, who died on Monday last; for some days previous to his Decease he had been extremely ill with an Inflammation added to his other Complaints. I hope Mr. Rush return'd from Westerham on Sunday soon enough to take the service in the afternoon. I understand Mr. Benson is very much admired as a Preacher at the Wells. . . . I called at Quarry Hill last Saturday with Mrs. & the Miss Thomas. Mrs. George Whitaker call'd upon my Aunt last Week; she mentioned that Mrs. & Miss Whitaker were soon expected from Bath. . . ."

The next letter, from Frances Humphry, refers to the engagement of Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove, to Clare Harvey; it is dated from Seal, 25th September, 1812.

" . . . We were quite surprised to hear of Henry Woodgate's match. We think it a very good one in every respect but the *too great* disparity of their years. What little I have seen of my *cousin elect* I like extremely. We are happy to hear my Aunt Rose is coming to Riverhill next week, when we shall hope to have the Pleasure of seeing her. The Mrs. Hardinges with Mrs. Pelham, Mrs. S. [Sackville]

Austen & Miss Papillon (who have been staying a few days at the Grove) drank tea with us last Tuesday ; Mrs. Julia is now confined with a complete fit of the Gout. Mrs. S. Woodgate has left them in suspense for a great while. Sir R. & Lady Hardinge are gone into Norfolk to make Mr. Stracey a visit ; what charming Weather for all the Travellers. Mrs. Peters and her eldest Son call'd here this Morning ; she says they have been very little at Brasted this Summer but are now come to reside there till the latter end of March. She enquired after you & desired her love to you. Mr. Lambard's Family are going next week to Hastings ; poor Miss Otway is extremely unwell with the jaundice. Mrs. J. Woodgate still looks very poorly. The Arch Bishop of Canterbury is coming into this Neighbourhood on a visit to Lord Frederick Campbell. I do not hear that the Time is fix'd for the Prince Regent's Visit to Knole. The Marchioness of Camden & her Daughters call'd here yesterday, but as we were at Dinner they said they would call again in the course of a few days. The carpet & rug arrived last night ; the Carpet is very handsome but I cannot say that I admire the Rug. . . ."

" Seal, December 15th, 1812.

My dear Julia,

. . . The Day after I wrote to you, we received an Invitation to Mrs. Lambard's Ball, which we accepted, & in the Evening we had a note from the Duchess inviting us to a Dance for the same Night. My Father call'd at Knole yesterday, when the Duchess told him she hoped to prevail with Mrs. Lambard to change her Day, as she cannot put off *her* Ball as she expects a great Deal of Company from Town & several of the Ministers for the Occasion. We have likewise received an Invitation from Lady Camden for a Dance on the 30th Inst. Now under these circumstances perhaps my Aunt Rose will have the goodness to allow me to postpone my Visit for ten Days or a fortnight as I am sorry to say poor Elizabeth is not well enough to partake of these Festivities. But if my Aunt has the smallest objection to be left alone for so short a time, I will with pleasure keep to my Appointment. . . .

Mr. Irving took my Father's Duty at Kempsey last Sunday. My Mother & Fanny are to dine at Wildernes on Thursday ; my Father you know does not venture from home of an Evening. We understand they expect a large Party at Xmas, among whom are the Duke & Duchess of Montrose & three Daughters, Ld. & Ly. Castleragh, Ld. Londonderry & three Lady Stuarts. Sir Richd & Lady Hardinge set off for Bath last Sunday. He has had the Gout flying about him for some time & is in Hopes that Bath waters may give him a regular fit. Poor Lady Hardinge seem'd rather reluctant at leaving the Vine during this gay season. Mama & Fanny are to drink tea at the Grove this Eveng with Mrs. Nouaille ; Miss Rideout comes to Greatness on Wednesday. . . ."

The visit was postponed on account of the balls. The invitations of the Duchess were not so general as in the previous year ; but Mrs. Lambard postponed her ball till the 4th January, and the Duchess invited all who were to have attended it. Julia returned the following week to be present on the occasion ; she was conveyed home by Mr. Nouaille, who had gone to Tonbridge on the affairs of the Bank. Mr. Nouaille was one of Mr. Children's trustees, and J. H. West one of William Woodgate's. The next letter, dated from Tunbridge, 1st February, 1813, refers to the Bank :—

" My dear Julia,

. . . Mr. West is still very much occupied by the Failure of the Bank, & from living on the spot the greatest share of settling it seems to fall upon him. Mr. J. G. Childrens continues to issue his notes, but I believe they do not obtain a very extensive circulation. We drank tea with the Thomas's last Friday & met Miss Harvey & Mrs. Hammond (who is staying with them). Captn Thomas still remains in a state of suspense with regard to his House, not having made any Agreement for the Purchase of it. We hear that Miss Clare Harvey's Wedding is to take Place early in the month of March. The Family are going to Town this Week to make

the necessary Preparations. Mr. T. Knox has been returned to Tunbridge for some Days. He performed no Part of the Duty of yesterday, either in the Morn'g or Eveng. My Aunt Rose is very much in want of some Winter work & will be obliged to Mama to send her the Directions &c for knitting the Nightcaps. Mrs. S. Woodgate has just been here, she tells me that her Aunts went from Pembury last Saturday to Southpark to spend a few days with Mrs. Allnutt. . . ."

" Wednesday Eveng, Sept., 1813.

My dear Fanny,

We have this Morning received a Basket of Peaches from Wildernesse, & imagining a Part of them, with some of our own, will not be unacceptable to my Aunt & yourself, my Father intends sending Thomas to Tunbridge to-morrow as the Bearer of them. Julia was much obliged for your kind letter; we were happy to find the Concert proved so agreeable. I think you kept up the weeks amusement with great spirit. Mr. Hutchens gave great satisfaction here, & I understand from Mr. [Charles] Hardinge was equally approved at Tonbridge. His sermon was very much liked, & his delivery thought extremely pleasing. Mr. Lambard and all his Family attended. We had few others of the considerable People from Sevenoaks, & were surprised that not any of the River Hill Family stay'd. Mr. Polhill sent a Donation of two Pounds & regretted extremely he was prevented attending himself. The Collection amounted to 22*l*. 7*s*. Mr. Hutchens & Mr. Stevens dined with us, & we had in addition the two Mrs. Hardinges, Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille, & Mr. Rush. We all thought Mr. Hutchen a most agreeable Man, & I assure you both Himself & Mr. Stephens seem'd much pleased with the reception they had met with. My Mother & Elizabeth paid a Wedding Visit to Mrs. Lane last Friday, when Mrs. Francis Woodgate was so obliging to give them a Cast [*i.e.* a seat in her carriage]; they afterwards called upon Mrs. Lambard &c. Mrs. Randolph has taken Miss Otway's House at River Head for six months. John Thompson call'd here this Morning. He inform'd us Mr. Van Mildart is appointed Regius Professor of Divinity at Christ Church, Oxford, which, with the Preferment attach'd to it, amounts to more than 3000 per Annum. He is allowed to retain both his Livings. It was given him in the handsomest manner by Lord Liverpool & came quite unsolicited.

Mr. Rush has declined Mrs. Loyd's House, & intends waiting for one here, the Situation being so infinitely more desirable. He has lately purchased six Houses in London rented at 30*l* a year. Julia & myself spent a very pleasant day at the Grove on Saturday; we were invited to meet Miss Julia Lambard who has been spending a few Days there lately. We hear Mr. Henry Hatsel has gone to Portugal, I believe he left England at the commencement of Summer. Mr. Charles Petley call'd yesterday; he has heard Mr. Wilgress at Chevening & thinks him as a Preacher equal, if not superior, to Dr. Andrews. We were much surprised the other morning at receiving a Visit from Mrs. & Miss Atkins, who are come to spend a fortnight with Mrs. Rouchelle. They made many enquiries after *Miss Frances*, & were much disappointed at not having the Pleasure of seeing her. Your account of Col. Austen having made Proposals of Marriage to Anne Woodgate [of Riverhill, afterwards Mrs. Richard Streatfeild] had not reached us before. We have mentioned it to Mrs. Francis [Woodgate] who seem'd to think it very improbable. . . . I quite forgot to tell you poor Mrs. Papillon has lost her youngest Child, a fine Boy of ten months old, who died of water in the Head & was very ill twenty four Hours. Since *your* Departure Mr. Whitehead has discontinued his Visits here of a Sunday, therefore I leave you to determine what was his attraction."

Col. Thomas Austen of Kippington, who was Member for West Kent, was the second son of Francis Motley Austen of Kippington, Sevenoaks, and nephew of the Rev. Sackville Austen, who married Anne Lambarde. Mrs. Randolph was Mrs. S. Austen's sister, and her husband was formerly the Bishop of London. Their brother, Multon Lambarde, married the daughter of Francis Otway, once a tenant

of Riverhill. The Rev. John Austen, Rector of Chevening, another son of F. M. Austen, married Miss Lane of Bradborne.

In 1813, William Ozias Humphry took a somewhat extraordinary step. He married a Miss Newcombe, and *afterwards* informed his family of the fact. That their feelings were hurt is evident. The affair is best explained by the letter of William himself.

" No. 12, Gt. Smith St., Westminster,
4th of Octr, 1813.

Dear Father,

I fear that you must have supposed that something was going on wrong in consequence of my long Silence, and particularly after the kind and affectionate Letters I received from my Sisters Maryanne and Elizabeth. You will be surprised to hear that I am married without submitting the matter for your Approbation first, which I do not think you would under all the Circumstances of my Situation have greatly disapproved, but restrained by motives of false Delicacy I omitted from Time to Time the opportunity which I greatly lament, and for which I humbly entreat your Forgiveness. You will of course expect me to give some account of the Person with whom I have formed so intimate a Relation. I have then to acquaint you that she is the Daughter of an Officer in the Navy of the Name of Newcombe ; she is about twenty years of Age, very pleasing in her Person, truly virtuous, very amiable in her Disposition, and prepossessing in her Manners. I have known her exactly three years from the present Time, and have from the first meditated the Connexion now subsisting between us. I am afraid you will accuse me as deficient in Candour by concealing a circumstance so interesting to my own Welfare and in which my Family cannot but feel alive, but I am conscious that I have brought no Disgrace on them, and I am certain that my Sisters will be much pleased with their Sister in Law when they become acquainted, and I shall find I have a great Load off my mind when I find that you are not so far dissatisfied as to renounce all Interchange with me for ever. If I should obtain your Forgiveness, it shall be my constant Endeavour to fulfil in every Respect and with Credit the various Relations in Life expected from me and which I have hitherto too much disregarded, particularly towards two most excellent Parents and such kind and affectionate Sisters. My Wife's Uncle is a Post Capt'n in the Royal Navy, and commands the " Wanderer " Frigate, and her Grand Father is a Clergyman of Exeter in some office about the Cathedral ; she has no immediate Property but is not without handsome Expectations. I assure you she has the worst of the Bargain, for she is a young Lady generally admired, & I certainly know that she has refused offers more flattering in Preference to me. I hope that one of my Sisters will write by return of Post. I am sorry that I have not replaced the Twenty Pounds I borrowed in May, but will on rect of my next quarter's Salary. I have not been at the Office since Monday but stay away with Lord Chetwynd's Permission. My Wife is extremely uneasy as well as myself for the part I have acted towards you, which was wholly contrary to her wishes. I again express my hope that you will not withhold your Benediction from me on this Occasion, and my Wife begs to unite in sending her Duty to you & my Mother & kindest affections to my Sisters, & I remain by hoping that I shall be a more Dutiful son in future

W. O. Humphry."

Upon further acquaintance, Mrs. Wm. Humphry proved fully equal to the description given of her. Both she and Capt. Newcombe stayed at Seal on different occasions, and were an agreeable addition to the family. The next letter contains some further particulars of her.

" Seal, February 15th, 1814.

My dear Julia,

. . . My Brother & Mrs. W. Humphry are still with us. I know you are very anxious to hear some Particulars of our new Sister. I shall say nothing respecting

her person, as Mr. Rush brought us a most accurate Account ; but what is of infinitely greater Consequence, she appears very amiable & well disposed & perfectly good tempered. She informs us she was educated at Montague House, Chelsea, since which she has resided with her Mother, tho' she has spent a good deal of Time occasionally with her Uncle Captain Newcombe, who she represents as having been extremely kind to her. Her Father died at a very early period leaving herself & one Sister, after which her Mother married Capt'n Jackson, by whom she has one Daughter & three Sons, all of whom are in the Navy. William is looking remarkably well & appears to be in very good spirits, & I am happy to add they appear to be very much attach'd to each other. They have been received with the greatest kindness & civility by all our Friends here, & Lord Camden on Sunday requested my Brother to introduce him to his Lady.

The Mrs. Hardinges, Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille, Mr. Francis Woodgate (who dined with us) &c drank Tea here on Friday, & the following Evening we spent at the Grove. Mr. & Mrs. S. Woodgate and all their Family are expected at the Grove to Day, & I believe are to stay till Saturday week. Mrs. Nouaille went yesterday to Stone Wall to visit her Brother John who has been very ill lately. She seem'd on Sunday very uneasy at his Illness. We hear it is in agitation at Sevenoaks to build two Chapels, one at Riverhead & the other on Sen'noke Wild ; Lord Amherst & Mr. Lambard have taken the whole Expense of erecting the Former on themselves. Mr. Veet dined with us yesterday, he told us no particular news. Sir John & Lady Twysden have left Bradborne for three years & have taken a small House at Ashford where they are now living. I imagine Mr. Rush will soon bring his Lady home, as the Improvements in the House are nearly completed ; he talks of going to Town next week for a few Days. Lady Camden & Lady E. Pratt call'd here last Saturday, when Lady Elizabeth gave us a pound for the Penny Society. Mrs. William [Humphry] is very fond of musick & plays & sings very agreeably. . . ."

"Seal, Monday Morn'g, May 2nd [1814].

My dear Julia,

The Mrs. Hardinge's visiting Pembury to Day enables me to send you a letter & likewise to thank you for the letter I received by Mrs. Nouaille. Mrs. Nouaille seemed very well pleased with her excursion to Rochester. . . . Fanny attended a very gay Rout at Mrs. Sackville Austen's last Tuesday ; the Company were as numerous as at Mrs. T. Austen's & tho' the House is so small were accomodated without the least Inconvenience ; there were four Rooms open for their Reception & seven Card tables. The Evening passed of very agreeably. Mrs. Whitaker spent two Days with us last week ; I fear their Circumstances are very much reduced, as Mr. Whitaker is obliged to sell his House at Pembury immediately. The Sisters have not yet determined where they shall fix their future abode. Mr. Henry Walter is going with his Pupil Lord Weymouth to make a Tour through the West of England for two or three Months, unless Peace may have made any Alteration in their Arrangements. Mrs. Baker's House here is certainly to be let, *your Friend* Mrs. Hemble has applied for it. Mr. Whitehead has taken Mrs. S. Austen's house on the Vine & is to have Possession of it at Michaelmas. Mrs. Nouaille is to have a large Party to stay with her this week & amongst the number Judge Grose, his Daughter & Sister. Our Greenhouse is looking beautiful. . . ."

In June, Mrs. Humphry and two of her daughters spent a few days with Mr. Baker in London. Three crowned heads were at that time in town, and Mr. Baker's house commanded an excellent view of the procession to the Guild Hall. That month Sir Henry Hardinge returned to England, covered with distinction which he had gained under the Duke of Wellington. He was received at the Grove by many of his relations. The event is touched upon by Mary Anne Humphry, in a letter dated the 15th June, 1814 :—

" . . . On Monday we spent a very pleasant Day at Godding ; Mrs. C. Hardinge, Richard, Caroline, & Mrs. T. Ponton comprised the Party. Mrs. J.

[Julia] Hardinge has been staying a week with Sir Richd & Lady Hardinge [in London]; she had frequent opportunities of viewing the great Potentates, & on Saturday attended the opera, when her Party were fortunate enough to obtain a Box immediately opposite to the Royal Party. She returned on Wednesday accompanied by her nephew Col. Hardinge, whose Arrival was announced by the Ringing of Bells &c. He call'd here yesterday, looking remarkably well & quite recover'd from the Hardships he has undergone. Mr. Hardinge & a large family Party are now assembled at the Grove to welcome his Return. They dine to-day at the Vicarage, & Mr. & Mrs. S. Woodgate are to meet them. . . ."

" Thursday Morning, December 22nd, 1814.

My dear Julia,

. . . The Party at Mrs. William Scoones's was put off on Friday & is to take place this Even'g. Edward Scoones is ordered immediately to America, & I understand his Brother Henry is expected at Tunbridge daily. I went with Mrs. West to Pembury on Tuesday; we sat an hour & an half with Mrs. Henry Woodgate & afterwards call'd at the Vicarage. Mr. Henry Woodgate is one of the Stewards for the Ball here on Wednesday & he requested me to tell you he hoped Fanny & yourself would contrive to come to it, as he should bring *two Beaus* who would have great Pleasure in dancing with you. The new Bride Mrs. William Austen has sent a Wedding Cake to Summer Hill, requesting it might be distributed amongst the Relations & particular Friends of her Family, & accordingly my Aunt received a Piece on Monday Eveng. Mr. Knox is gone to Town to spend the Xmas. Mr. Thompson perform'd the whole Duty on Sunday Eveng. He takes his final Departure from Tunbridge the End of this week & is going to London, where it is said he has obtained an Appointment. Mr. Ashburnham call'd upon my Aunt Tuesday morning; Sir William Ashburnham leaves the Wells the beginning of next month, & has taken a House in Town. His Family seem to consider him in a very precarious state, having lately been seized with another fit. Miss Harvey had a Party of fourteen at her House last night at which my Aunt & myself were present. We hear Mrs. Bailey intends to dispose of the Castle, provided he can sell it for nine thousand pounds, and Harman & Tate are mentioned as likely to become the Purchasers. No Tydings of a Cook have yet reached us tho' we have made every possible Enquiry, but I should hope you would soon hear of one in your Neighbourhood. . . ."

In 1815 Elizabeth Humphry, the daughter, died; there is an inscription to her memory beneath that to her brother George:—

"Also of Elizabeth their eldest daughter,
Who was born January 18th, 1782,
And died June 5th, 1815."

The only letter of 1815 (dated 6th November) indicates that Mr. Humphry's health was becoming less robust; any exertion, like attending a tithe meeting easily rendered him indisposed. Mary Anne Humphry writes:—

" My dear Julia,

Mr. Nouaille informed us yesterday he intended going to Tunbridge to-morrow, & should be happy to accomodate you with a cast Home. We should have given you earlier intimation of this, but we understood Mr. Nouaille did not mean to attend the next meeting. . . . I think you wanted a few more Beaux to enliven your Party at the Christening; Mrs. Julia Hardinge gave us a Bill of Fare of the Dinner, there are not many Vicars I should suppose who could *afford* to give such an entertainment. Mrs. Stephen Woodgate & all her Family are coming to the Grove on Wednesday. Mr. & Mrs. Rush dined with us yesterday. . . ."

The Christening party appears to have been in Stephen Woodgate's family at Pembury. In June, 1816, Mr. Humphry's general weakness² alarmed his family.

Under medical advice, he confined his diet chiefly to animal food, abstaining from all fruit and vegetables, but without much effect. The letter continues:—

“ Mr. J. Ponton is staying at Godden ; he called here yesterday. We are quite of my Aunt's opinion that he is a very agreeable Man. . . . My Mother & myself accompanied my Father to Sevenoaks this morning ; upon our return we met Mr. Stanhope & his friend Mr. Hawley, who staid here till five o'clock. Mrs. F. Woodgate is in want of an under nurse ; if you should hear of one likely to suit her, will you send her to Godden. . . . ”

Mary Anne Humphry's letter of 26th June shews that her Father's condition was viewed with serious apprehension. Writing from Tonbridge, she describes the appearance at church of Mrs. Charles Hardinge, after the wedding on the 13th. She was the second daughter of Kenneth Callender of Craigforth.

“ The Bride & Bridegroom made their appearance at Church on Sunday with Sir Richd. & Lady Hardinge & Miss Callender, who was generally taken for the Bride. My Aunt paid her wedding visit yesterday ; we were much pleased with Mrs. Hardinge who is rather handsome & extremely pleasing in her manners. Mr. Hardinge seems in excellent spirits & from the appearance of his Lady we really think he has *at length* been fortunate in his choice. Mr. Knox preached a very good sermon on Sunday for the benefit of the Sunday School ; a Collection was afterwards made at the Church doors which amounted to more than twenty pounds. It was badly conducted in this respect as the Congregation were not apprized of his Intention, & many that would have been contributors were not prepared for the occasion. We understand that Mr. Gordon & Miss Jervais were to be married yesterday at Shipbourne & that Mr. Knox was to perform the ceremony. Mrs. West on Monday brought me an invitation from Mrs. Alnutt to dine at South Park to meet the bride & a large party, who were to attend afterwards the Leigh Cricketing, but as the weather is changible I thought it more prudent to decline, & not having quite lost the Headache I have lately had. . . . ”

Mr. Richard Baker, who had spent part of June at Seal, wrote in the most pressing fashion, desiring Mr. Humphry to consult some London specialist and stay with him as long as he could, for that purpose. His next letter was written on hearing of his friend's death. He died on the 13th July, 1816, aged 73, and was buried at Seal six days later.

The intelligence was communicated to Rose Woodgate in a letter from Henry Woodgate of Riverhill.

“ Riverhill, July 13th, 1816.

Dear Sister,

It is with infinite Concern I inform you that our worthy Friend & Brother Mr. Humphry is no more. He died this Morning about half past five & was perfectly sensible almost to the last, but *suffered greatly* for a few Hours before the awful Change took place. His Family & Mr. Richards [the Doctor] were up the whole Night with him. Poor Man, he had been rapidly sinking for several weeks past, but his Death was more sudden than any of us expected. I have been to Seal this Morning. Mrs. Humphry and her Daughters are in the greatest affliction as you may suppose, but I hope time & Reflection will alleviate their Sufferings & Distress. I shall go over often & offer my Services on this mournful occasion, as I shall be anxious to afford them every Assistance & Consolation in my power.

Mrs. Humphry will thank Mrs. James West to acquaint her Father & Brothers of this sad Event. Willm has not been down (which I am very sorry for) but He is to attend the Funeral. John [Woodgate] is gone to Ireland ; the order was so sudden that he had not time to take leave of us. Believe me ever, with our united Love,

Your most afft Brother

Henry Woodgate.”

William Humphry's letter is as follows :—

“ Council Office, Whitehall, 15th of July, 1816.

My dear Sister [Frances],

I received your Letter this Morning communicating the mournful Intelligence of my dear and excellent Father's Decease. The short Letter I had previously received from Julia prepared me in some Measure for the fatal Event, but the dreadful Certainty of so irreparable a Loss has filled me with Feelings of Sorrow I can at present but ill express. The Intimation of the Wish you have signified for me to attend at the Funeral is I am convinced perfectly right, and no Respect I can shew to the Memory of so good a Parent and so worthy a Man, in all the Relations of Life, can be too great ; but I really am apprehensive that I do not possess sufficient strength either of Body or Mind to bear up against so trying a Scene, the Possibility of which I have contemplated during my whole Life with a kind of superstitious Awe, and the withdrawing from which might be imputed to a Want of proper Feeling, or being actuated by worse Motives, which if you could read by my Heart you would discover was not the case. What you mention as to my Father's kindness towards me overpowers me with Gratitude and affords me the Greatest Consolation, and I will endeavour, in every Action of my Life, to do as if his eyes were fixed upon me. I unfortunately fell early in Life into a wrong Course, and never had Firmness to extricate myself out of it, and I can assure you that I never made those Applications that occasioned him so much Displeasure except under the Pressure of the last Necessity and to avoid worse Consequences. I am happy to think that I have succeeded in bettering and extricating my Affairs which it would have been some Consolation to him to have known. I am grieved to think that the last Moments of his Life were passed in so much Pain, but as you have so sensibly observed the Loss falls wholly upon us ; he, good Man, is doubtless in a State of Felicity, the just Reward of a pure and unspotted Life. Let this event open our eyes and admonish us as he exhorted on a former melancholy occasion I well remember, to strengthen the Ties of Affection towards each other, to forget all past Differences, to live happily with each other, and to do good as far as we are severally able. I hardly know what I have written, from the frequent Interruption I have experienced and from the Grief which almost overpowers me, but I will try to compose my Mind and reconcile myself to your Wishes ; and with kindest Remembrance and Condolence to my afflicted Mother and to my Sisters Julia and Mary Anne I remain

Your ever affectionate Brother

W. O. Humphry.

My Wife and Boys are I am happy to say quite well. I will not neglect the insertion in the Papers.”

So far from being able to attend the funeral, William Humphry was unable to leave the house for several days ; and on his recovery, owing to pressure of business and other matters, was unable to visit Seal until September.

Near the South porch of Seal Church is a marble tablet, surmounted by the arms of Humphry (f) and Upcott quarterly, impaling those of Woodgate ; below is the inscription :—

“ To the memory
of The Rev. William Humphry, M.A.,
45 years Vicar of this parish and Vicar of Birling
in the County of Kent,
who departed this life 13th July, 1816,
aged 73 years.

Faithful in the performance of his ministerial functions
as a Christian Priest,
Exemplary in the discharge of all the relative duties,
and pious to his God,
He guided others in the path to Eternal life,
and led the way.”

(f) The arms of Humphry were “ermine, four pallets sable.”

By his will, dated 30th January, 1812, Mr. Humphry devised his house at Seal, three cottages at Seal and two cottages and eight acres of land at Godden Green, Seal, two cottages and a small farm known as "Noah's Ark" at Kemsing, and all other his real estate for his wife for her life, and after her decease upon trust for sale, proceeds to be divided between his four daughters, to each of whom he gave in addition £500 in the Three Per Cents. He gave £2,000, secured on lands of Thomas Francis Goringe of Burwash, to William Ozias; but by a codicil dated 18th October, 1814, executed after his son's marriage, revoked the bequest and gave it instead to Peter Nouaille and Henry Woodgate of Riverhill as Trustees to pay the interest to his wife for her life, then to his son for his life, then to his son's wife for her life, and then to divide the amount equally between his son's children at 21. All the household effects were left to Mrs. Humphry, and the residue to Henry Woodgate of Riverhill, the Trustee, upon the same trusts as the realty. The will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury by Mrs. Humphry the Executrix, on 16th August, 1816.

Mr. Humphry was succeeded in the Vicarage of Kempsing cum Seal by the Rev. Gervas Whitehead, M.A., domestic chaplain to the Duchess of Dorset (the patroness), and senior Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. Mr. Humphry's death caused his family no change of abode, for the house they occupied at Seal was not the Vicarage but their own.

The next letter, from Mary Anne Humphry at Tunbridge, in 1816, contained the important news that Summerhill was to be sold*. She goes on to say:—

"Doctor Knox preach'd again on Sunday & gave us an admirable discourse of near an hour long. After Church we call'd upon Miss Knox, who assured us Mr. Sconce was perfectly recovered from the effects of his accident. Fanny has certainly made a great Impression upon the Doctor, which his travels have not obliterated; he requested when next I wrote to send his kind Regards to her. Mr. & Mrs. T. Scoones have left Tunbridge, & Miss Julia Scoones has accompanied them with the Intention of staying a Twelvemonth. The next card Assembly on Friday is expected to be a very good one, as all the young people have agreed to attend & make up a round Table. We have had several visitors this morning which will apologise for the haste I have written this in."

The only letter in 1817 is from Mary Anne Humphry:—

"Seal, April 15th, 1817.

My dear Julia,

I send you a few lines by Miss Callender who is going to-morrow to spend a fortnight with Mrs. Charles Hardinge; little George and William Woodgate [sons of Stephen] accompany her, as the Mrs. Hardinges intend going to Town on Thursday where they have taken lodgings for a month. Caroline was prevented by indisposition from attending the ball last night & has been confined for the last ten days with a bad cough attended with fever; the loss of a ball at her age is really a disappointment, especially as she had been engaged for some time to dance with the Hon. Mr. Cust, brother to Lord Brownlow, & a very genteel pleasant young man.

(Wednesday morning.) I had written thus far last night when Mrs. Nouaille call'd & carried me to drink tea at the Grove. The Ball on Monday was very well attended, & altho many families of the neighbourhood were absent there was an hundred and eleven in number, a large proportion of whom were strangers. . . . Lord Camden's family came to Wilderness last week with Mr. & Lady Emily James. The former [Mr. James] continues in a very precarious state of health, & his physician who never leaves him entertains little hopes of his recovery. Lady Emily from anxiety of mind is so much altered that scarce any vestige remains of her former beauty.

You have probably before this heard of Mr. Whitehead's good fortune. As fellow of his College, a living called Stanley Regis in the finest part of Gloucester has lately fallen to him. It is double the value of this with an excellent house & glebe of eighty acres attached to it. He has not yet determined whether he accepts it & went this week to visit it. If he takes the living he vacates Seal immediately, but I think he will be unwilling to quit his friends & connections here, altho so desirable a piece of preferment. We shall be *gratified* on Sunday with hearing John Thompson who takes his duty during his absence. We all dined at the Grove on Thursday & met Sir Richd & Lady Hardinge; Sir Richd has some intention of taking Col. Austen's house at Sundridge, in which case he relinquishes his design of going abroad this year. . . . Our visiting with Mr. & Mrs. Irving has hitherto been confined to frequent calls, but we intend asking them to dinner next week with the River Hill family."

Mr. James was son of Sir Walter James of Langley Hall, Berks., who married Lord Camden's sister. Lady Emily James, his wife, was daughter of the Marquis of Londonderry, and sister of Viscount Castlereagh. He was engaged in the campaigns of 1813 and 1814, and distinguished himself so much as to have received the thanks of the Emperor of Russia and King of Prussia, as well as some distinguished military orders of those sovereigns. On the cessation of hostilities he was appointed Secretary of Legation at Munich and Secretary of the Embassy at the Hague; but in consequence of ill health returned to England in 1816, and died at Dublin in March, 1818, in the twenty-fifth year of his age. His widow re-married in 1821 Sir Henry Hardinge.

In 1818 Julia Humphry spent a very pleasant time with her cousin, Francis Woodgate of Godden; Mr. Woodgate and his family had taken 2, Gloucester Place, Hastings.

"Seal, February 5th, 1818.

My dear Julia,

. . . . We were sorry to learn Mrs. Francis Woodgate was prevented by the indisposition of little Henry from joining the party at Miss Milward's; however we hope he is now quite recovered. My Mother is much gratified by the enquiries made after her by her friends at Hastings & wishes to know if you have yet had an opportunity of seeing Miss Cosswin. The news of Mrs. Tilden's death gave her great concern; but from the suffering state she has long been in, it may perhaps be considered a happy release. Mrs. Nouaille is rejoiced to hear her *young patient* is going on so well. . . . The Mrs. Hardinges went to Tunbridge on Friday and returned on Tuesday. John Woodgate [of Stonewall] has lately been spending three weeks at the Vicarage at Pembury & is now at Spring Grove. Mr. & Mrs. Foster have also been passing a week with Mr. & Mrs. S. Woodgate & are coming to the Grove for a few days. We heard from Fanny yesterday; perhaps (as she may write to you) it is not fair to tell of Tunbridge news, but I must inform you that Mr. Carnell has made proposals of marriage to Miss Laura Scoones & it is supposed the *fair one* will not be *cruel*. I hope, if Mr. & Mrs. Francis Woodgate wish it, that Major Budyer will accede to their terms; we only regret that the House is not situated in our neighbourhood. Mrs. Cobb has agreed with Mrs. Otway to take her house at Riverhead from ladyday, & Mr. John Cobb (it is said) has hired Bradborne. . . ."

Julia Humphry was invited to prolong her stay at Hastings, and returned with the Woodgates to Sevenoaks, after a delightful visit.

"Seal, Feby 19th, 1818.

My dear Julia,

. . . . The accounts of Mrs. Knox are more favourable, & her friends now entertain every hope of her going on well. What a dreadful event the suicide of Sir Richard Croft! Surely it was most unfortunate he did relinquish his profession on the death of the lamented princess. Fanny drank tea at the Grove last night, &

there heard of an approaching wedding between Miss Bisco & Mr. Tritton, son of the banker, & at present curate of Tatersfield ; it is an union intirely approved by the ladies' family.

The intelligence I sent you of Bradborne & Mrs. Otway's house was not correct, as the Cobb family have declined taking them & Mrs. Otway (by the advice of her friends) has decided on remaining herself at Riverhead. We called upon Mrs. Irving on Tuesday. Next week her Mother & sisters are going to town, to be present at the festivities given in Honour of Lord Temple's coming of age, & which are expected to be very splendid. Poor Miss Claridge has had the typhus fever to a most alarming degree, & last week went to Hastings in so weak a state as to be conveyed down in a litter. Mr. Wilmot at the request of her Father attended her there. Mrs. Lawrence has been appointed Schoolmistress & is to enter upon her office on Monday next. This fine morning tempted us to walk to Sevenoaks, where we called upon Mrs. Luxford & Mrs. Wilgress. Mrs. Nouaille desires you to tell Mrs. Woodgate what pleasure it gives her to learn that little Francis is so well recovered.

To this period must be referred two undated letters ; the first is a short one from Mrs. Humphry, and mentions the birth of her grand-daughter Juliana. The second, from Miss Humphry at Tonbridge, is in reply to the former, which was brought by Henry Woodgate. It was conveyed to Seal by the Rev. Edward G. Smith on his way to Greatness. She says :—

“ . . . Mrs. James West has promised to take me to the Wells some morning after we have had a shower, to call upon my old friend Major Wood. James received a long letter from his uncle a few days ago in which he mentions that his brother Denny is studying very hard for Orders & hopes to be ordained in October. Mr. Harte came to Mabledown the beginning of the week ; I believe now all the houses in the Neighbourhood are occupied. I find immediately upon my arrival at Tonbridge a certain Gentleman renewed his visits to Mr. West upon the old subject*. We have seen Mrs. Knox & Maria several times. Mr. Knox hired an open carriage to take his family to Brighton, & as the term for which he engaged it is not expired, they now frequently drive out in it. Dr. Knox is expected at Tonbridge soon, & likewise Mr. Sconce & his family. . . . ”

Another letter, dated 7th February, 1819, and written by Miss Humphry, describes one of the Sevenoaks balls.

“ My dear Julia,

. . . As I think you will have a little curiosity to hear an account of the Ball, I will endeavour to satisfy it as well as I am able. Mrs. Julia Hardinge was so kind to chaperone us, with her Niece & Miss Harriet Papillon. It was much more numerously attended than usual at this season of the year, the company amounting to near a hundred. Sir Richard Hardinge exerted himself very much to make a good Ball & brought a large party from Town for the occasion, consisting of three young ladies, Miss Ellis (a sister of Mrs. Heaton's), Miss Prade & Miss Stracey, & two very smart Beaus, Mr. Heaton & Mr. Stony, in addition to which two Officers of the Guards came to the Crown by the invitation of Miss Stracey. Altho there was a larger proportion of Beaus than was expected, yet the number of belles greatly preponderated, consequently every dance there was many a *disappointed fair* without a partner. Ld. Camden & his two youngest daughters & Ld. & Ly. Amherst with Lady Harriet Windsor were present. There were several very pretty young Women, but Susan Allnutt was considered decidedly the belle of the evening ; she looked particularly well, & all those who had not seen her before were much struck with her beauty. The new Stewards were very active & thought to acquit themselves extremely well. The following night we spent a delightful evening at the Grove &

* See Reference Sheet.

met Sir Richd. & Lady Hardinge & all their Party. Miss Prade amused the company with a little very fine musick, & the other young ladies contributed very agreeable & humourous singing. I really do not know when I have met more agreeable young women. Miss Stracey is extremely lively & I should think more than a little of a coquette.

Caroline Hardinge appears highly delighted with her visit to the Metropolis ; she partook of a variety of amusements, but nothing seemed to afford her so much gratification as going over St. Paul's Cathedral. She has brought several presents from town. Mr. & Mrs. Allnutt, Susan & Miss Sidney are coming to the Grove to-morrow week for a few days. Lady Camden & Lady G. Pratt called yesterday, they do not go to Town till next month. . . . Sarah Woodgate was prevented accompanying her Brother & Sister by a cold. . . ."

The next letter refers to a long day spent by the James Wests at Seal.
My dear Fanny,

. . . Our little friend William [Humphry, their nephew] has not forgot the impression made on him by Alicia, & his first question the next morning was, 'When Miss Alicia would come again ; for I should like to see her again, Aunt Julia.' You will I think be surprized to hear that Mr. Whitehead has sent us an Invitation to dine upon venison on Tuesday next. I heartily wish you could partake of it, *as such an event may not happen again.* The family at River Hill are also asked—as well as Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille, but they (I believe) have declined as their sons go to Brentford [to school] on that day. My Uncle, Anne, & Sarah, with John, and William Woodgate (who is staying at River Hill) dined with us yesterday & Mr. Whitehead. We had a fine neck of venison which our guests seemed to enjoy extremely. The Mrs. Hardinges favoured us with their company in the evening. We talked over our intended visit on Tuesday & have determined to be as merry as possible. Anne regrets much you will not be present & thought an express should have been sent off for the occasion. My Mother has received a letter from Mr. Gorringe of Burwish, requesting permission to transfer her mortgage to his sister, who is about to purchase the land and to whom he is indebted for a considerable sum. As my Uncle is of opinion that the money will be equally secure & nothing is more advantageous than a mortgage, my Mother means to comply with his request. Our servant John gave warning about a week since ; he has offered to Mrs. Cade, but she declines taking him, not having been used to the care of plate & china. We have not yet hired a boy, altho' many have allready offered. Perhaps you may hear of one likely to suit the place.

Sir Henry Hardinge has been staying at Sundridge for the last week. I fear Sir Richard will not be well enough to be present at the christening to-morrow. I hear Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hardinge intend to draw a line & only to ask relations; however I hope you will be invited in the evening, & gratified by again meeting your old friend Sir Henry. My Aunt Rose will be sorry to learn that, in a letter from Mr. Acton to my Uncle, he mentions that Mrs. Clayton [Cleaton] has lately had a paraletic attack. I do not hear that he is coming into the south. Has my Aunt yet settled with her Servants ? I suppose that Richard will wish for promotion; as Susan is so valuable a servant I hope she will remain stationary. . . ."

"Wednesday Eveng, Nov. 24th, 1819.

"My dear Fanny,

. . . The Miss Allnutts came to us on Thursday and left us yesterday ; they were so very accomodating & good tempered that we derived the greatest pleasure from their society. The Mrs. Hardinges dined with us on Friday, & our Friends at Greatness joined the Party in the Eveng. We invited the Riverhill Family but unfortunately they were engaged to dine with Mr. & Mrs. G. Austen on that day. On Saturday we walked to Sevenoaks & call'd on Mrs. Charles Petley, and afterwards dined at the Grove. We had many mornng visitors, among the rest

the Lady Pratts, the Miss Woodgates & Mr. & Mrs. C. Petley. The Miss Allnutts have made up very pretty morning dresses, not unlike yours of last year, & we were very glad they were so much seen. Fanny Allnutt gave us much Information respecting the Fashions, and with great good humour assisted me in mantua making. Miss Sydney & Maria [Allnutt] came up in the carriage yesterday & spent two hours with us. I believe Miss Sydney leaves South-Park in February, when she is to be introduced in the fashionable world. I will thank you not to mention this at present. Mr. Smith took the whole Duty at Seal last Sunday, & it is thought he went through the service with much credit to himself, & was *highly flattered* by Ld. Camden saying he had not heard the Duty better performed for a long time. We dined at Greatness yesterday to meet our old friends Mr. & Mrs. Rush. Mrs. Parsons has been staying there for some time; her spirits appear improved by change of scene and the kind attentions of Mrs. Nouaille.

Mrs. Sackville Austen has been very unwell with a Carbuncle on her neck & suffers much in consequence. You have probably heard of the death of Mrs. Hallard's eldest son, who was found dead in his Bed very unexpectedly; he had been in an indifferent state of health for some time [Mrs. Hallward was a Miss Lambarde and sister of Mrs. Sackville Austen]. We were very glad to see Mrs. Rush & regret that her stay is so short; they spend two days with Mrs. C. Hardinge on their return. The Mrs. Hardinges had a good account of the children at Pembury on Sunday, they are recovered from the fever; as soon as the Infection is over Mr. & Mrs. S. Woodgate are to make their annual visit at the Grove. Major Woodgate [William Woodgate of Summerhill] remains in this part of the country till after Xmas; Anna came from Brighton last week to give her Father a meeting. We think Fanny Allnutt's manner of doing her hair would be particularly becoming to you & I would recommend you to adopt it, as we hear *bows* are going out of fashion. The Allnutts are to attend a county Ball at Maidstone next Tuesday when new ball Rooms are to be opened. Lord Clifton & Sir Thomas Browne are Stewards on the occasion. . . ."

The following is the reply:—

“ Tunbridge, Novr. 28th, 1819.

My dear Julia,

. . . I am very glad to hear you derived so much pleasure from the Miss Allnutts' company, & I hear they express themselves equally pleased with their visit to Seal; Fanny came to the Postern on Thursday, since which the weather has been so indifferent that I have not seen her. Mr. Luxford has lately had a considerable addition to his fortune by the death of Mrs. Hooper of Hailsham, who was his God-mother; we hear she has left him the great Tythes of the parish where she resided, which amount to four hundred a year, & ten thousand pounds in money. My Aunt says my Mother must remember her Brother, who formerly frequently preached at Mountfield. Major & Mrs. Wood have lately spent a few days at the Postern, I think her a very pleasant unaffected woman. Mr. West's Carriage on Friday se'nnight conveyed a party of six to drink tea there during their visit, in which number I was included; a few Gentlemen dined there & we spent a very pleasant evening. Miss Spark, Fanny Woodgate's Governess, is a very pretty agreeable young woman, with one of the finest complexions I ever saw. I dined with Mrs. Charles Hardinge the week before last with Major Woodgate, Stephen, & Mr. John Scoones; the Major retains his enthusiastic fondness for musick, & I never saw him in better spirits, which do not appear forced but quite natural. Mr. James West went to Tudely Church last Sunday to hear an old School fellow (the son of Dr. Stephens) perform the service; he is a pupil of Kemble's & considered a very fine preacher, but I should not think theatrical action quite adapted to the pulpit. I believe I mentioned that Wise intended leaving Tonbridge; we now find he has an execution in his house, & is indebted to Government two thousand pounds for stamps. The South Park party go to the ball on Tuesday from the Postern, &

Mr. & Mrs. West have some idea of accompanying them. Tell Maryanne *her friend* Miss E. Carnell is going to-morrow to Gunsberry house to make her Aunt [Mrs. Morrison] a visit till Christmas. I am much obliged by yr hint respecting Dressing the hair, which I shall endeavour to adopt ; I understand you have *metamorphosed* your head & that it is considered a great improvement. Mr. Knox preached this morning & gave a most excellent advent Sermon. Mr. Luxford had yesterday a juvenile party at dinner consisting of the head class at Mr. Knox's, James and William West & a few other favourites."

A postscript written the next day adds :—

" . . . Mrs. Allnutt & Mrs. West called this morning ; Mrs. West is prevented attending the ball by slight indisposition, which I regret very much, as she said had she gone she should have requested me to accompany her, & although I am indifferent to dancing I must own I should have been much gratified to have witnessed so gay an assemblage. If the weather is propitious I am to walk over to the Postern to-morrow to hear a *full & circumstantial* account of the Ball from the young ladies. I called upon Mrs. Charles Hardinge this morn'g ; she tells me Miss Caroline is your visitor during her Aunt's absence in Town. I am sure her company affords you all pleasure."

Meanwhile William Humphry's family were growing up. The latest addition, Julia, was " as lively as a little bird " and the two sons went every day to school ; William made good progress, but Richard, who at that time had not attained his fourth year, was not resigned to his fate. Two weeks later Mary Anne Humphry writes :—

" Seal, Sunday, Decr. 12th, 1819.

My dear Fanny,

. . . Caroline spent the interval of her Aunts' absence with us. They found Sir Richard & Lady Hardinge in better health, but they seem unhappy in regard to Frederick Hardinge, fearing his complaint has a tendency to consumption. Sir Richd. with his usual kindness has sent for him to Town, that he may receive the first advice. We are told the children at Pembury are much improved by change of air ; they came up a party of twelve & remain at the Grove till Thursday sen'night, when Mr. & Mrs. Hardinge with Sir Henry are to succeed them for the Xmas Hollidays. Perhaps it would have been more prudent if Mrs. Stephen Woodgate had deferred her visit till after Christmas, when all idea of infection would have been removed. I am sure you rejoice in the good fortune of our friend John Thompson ; what a happy circumstance his connection with Sir Thomas Dyke, who has proved a real friend. He entered the church with little prospect of preferment & is now in possession of from 7 to 8 hundred a year. He favoured us with a visit on Thursday, I wish you had been present ; he was in such *high feather* & elated with success. He hoped Miss Fanny was quite well & desired to be *par-ti-cu-lar-ly* remember'd to her whenever we wrote. Miss Burton called here a few days ago ; she spoke highly of the new Curate who gives general satisfaction ; she kindly invited us to come to Sevenoaks church & sit with her to hear him perform the duty & afterwards lunch at her house. . . .

In January was the New Year's Ball which indirectly proved so fatal to the Allnutts*. After her description of it, Mary Anne Humphry adds :—

" We have seen a great deal of Mrs. Charles Hardinge since her visit at the Grove. We spent a day at the Grove last week. I grieve to say Mrs. Julia Hardinge still suffers much from the gout which detains her a prisoner, & Mrs. Caroline has ventured out very little this Xmas. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hardinge, Caroline & Frederick dined with us yesterday with the party at Greatness & Mr. Whitehead. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Petley called on us last week."

* See Reference Sheet.

“ Tonbridge, Febr'y. 15th, 1820.

My dear Julia,

My Aunt has had an Advertisement put in the Maidstone paper this week that her Farm is to be let, in consequence of which she may expect applications for it very soon ; & it has to-day been intimated to her that she will probably soon receive the offer of a compromise for the money owing to her by the Major, but which I will thank you not to mention at present. The Miss Woodgates spent a part of the morning here on Wednesday, on which day the King was Proclaimed. The Ladies of the place assembled in the Town Hall to witness the Procession, which was a very respectable one considering it was only fixed the night before ; had the notice been longer, many of the neighbouring gentry would have attended. Divine service is to be performed here to-morrow when Mr. Knox is to preach, Mr. Hardinge having already given us a Funeral Sermon. . . .

A meeting of the Ladies & some of the Tradespeople took place yesterday at the Vicarage to arrange a plan for regularly visiting the Girls School (which at Mrs. Hardinge's request I attended), when a Committee was formed consisting of more than twenty who have engaged to visit 2 at a time a week ; the numbers being so considerable will make it very easy to every one, as it will only come to their turn *officially* once in about three months ; but I should think all the *young Ladies* who have not *family arrangements* to attend to would like an opportunity of being useful, & be disposed to repeat their visits more frequently. I have been this morning with the Miss Carnells & Miss Jewhurst, the latter of whom is very clever & useful on the occasion, & I shall hope to gain some useful hints for the management of our own School. . . . Frances Humphry.”

“ Seal, February 20th, 1820.

My dear Fanny,

Julia desires me to thank you for your kind letter, since the receipt of which we have had the pleasure of hearing from Mrs. Stephen Woodgate that my Aunt and all my friends at Tunbridge were quite well. I am sorry to inform you poor Mrs. Julia Hardinge continues a great invalid ; she has been confined to her bed with a severe return of gout since Tuesday. . . . Caroline returns from Town to-morrow ; Mrs. Stephen Woodgate has proved an excellent nurse during her absence & by her care & attention has contributed much to the comfort of both her aunts. Sir Henry Hardinge has offered himself to represent the City of Durham (I know not whether assisted by Lord Stewart's interest) ; he is not sure of success, having a powerful opponent to contend against. He is gone to Durham to forward this object as much as possible. The proclaiming of the present King took place at Sevenoaks yesterday week. The concourse of people assembled to display their loyalty was very great & most of the carriages in the neighbourhood followed in procession. Music was wanting to enliven the ceremony and which from some mistake had not been provided ; I understand in this respect it was conducted much better at Tunbridge. Mr. John Dudlow [of Town Malling] read the proclamation. I went with Mrs. Nouaille ; Lady Camden & her Daughters in a carriage & four attended, & Lord & Lady Stanhope, & Lord & Lady Amherst with their servants in new mourning as Lord of the Bedchamber to the late King. The Magistrates and some of the gentlemen around dined at Kippington [Mr. Austen's].

Mr. Whitehead has lately lost another nephew, Charles Whitehead, with the same complaint that so many of his family have died of. He went to his funeral on Wednesday, the day when our late revered sovereign was interred, when Mr. Henry Kelson performed the service at Seal. I must tell you rather a laughable circumstance. Lady Camden & the young ladies have long wish'd for an opportunity of hearing Mr. Donald of whom a very favourable report has reach'd them, but partly out of *delicacy to Mr. Whitehead* forebore to gratify their curiosity. However on Wednesday, hearing of his absence, they determined to go, when lo ! Mr. Curteis who has not taken the duty for some time performed the whole service,

to their great disappointment & the amusement of many, who knew with what reluctance her ladyship had quitted her own parish church. Mrs. Otway Maine has lost her eldest son ; fortunately she was staying with her Mother at Bath when this event took place. Mr. Robert Maine's eldest son, who you may remember to have heard was a most promising lad, is dying of a consumption, & Mr. Kelson thinks cannot survive beyond May. We called upon Mrs. Charles Petley on Friday morning ; she was allow'd to come down stairs the day before & appear'd in good spirits. We are much concerned to hear that Fanny Allnutt has had a relapse, indeed I think we hear of nothing but illness among our acquaintance. Your friend Admiral Lawford is very ill at this time, but know not his complaint. Mr. Rush received a summons that his mother was dangerously ill, & Mrs. Packman went down to her daughter during his absence. I fear you will think I send you quite a sick list, but poor young Peak, Betty Morgan's husband, is in the last stage of a decline & not expected to live from day to day. . . . Julia has planted half the Enenomes sent by Mr. Acton in the upper part of the bed where the enenomes of last year & the pinks were put, the best place she cd find in the garden ; the remainder wait your future *orders*. I hope my Aunt will get a good tenant for her farm & one more regular in his payments than Hooker. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

" Tonbridge, March 26th, 1820.

My dear Julia,

. . . Mr. Ashburnham spent a night at Dry Hill in his way from Chichester ; we saw him for about ten minutes, he appeared in great spirits & looked extremely well. I hear Miss Bancroft is engaged to be married to a gentleman in the Army, but do not know whether it is considered a desirable connexion. I accompanied Mrs. West and her young ladies about ten days ago to call on Mrs. S. Woodgate. Although the children had the Hooping cough, they all looked remarkably well, and the youngest boy is one of the sweetest children I have seen for some time. Poor little Arthur's is a most unlucky accident, but I am happy to find he is doing as well as possible.

I spent a very pleasant day at the Postern last week with Miss Sydney & Susan Allnutt. I fear poor Fanny, tho' she is considered better, does not mend as fast as could be wished. Mrs. Knox invited me to dine with them last Friday to meet Mr. & Mrs. Hardinge, but as it was not quite convenient for me to dine out, as my Aunt expected Hooker, I went in the evening. She shewed me a pair of very handsome diamond Ear-rings, a present from Mr. T. Knox ; my Aunt says they are not *genuine*, but of this I am not a sufficient judge to determine, I only know they are very brilliant. I am sorry to say very little progress is made in the arrangement of my Aunt's affairs, & I begin to fear they will not very speedily be compromised. Mr. James West advises her not to appear anxious to come into their terms, as he thinks a little delay may be advantageous to her.

The enlargement of the Church is decided on (by a great majority) & I believe it is to be begun very soon ; I have seen the model of the alteration & think it will be extremely handsome. The Weddings furnish the *chief subjects of conversation* here at present ; it is said Mr. Carnell's with Miss Laura Scoones is to take place very soon. I am told Mr. Arthur Pott is to fulfill an old promise & present the bride with a wedding dress. I wish Sir James Cockburn would continue the mortgage my Mother holds on the Farm at Burwash, as I fear she will not be able to dispose of the money to so much advantage in any other way. . . . Frances Humphry."

To this period must be ascribed the following letter, undated, addressed to Miss Humphry at Tonbridge :—

" Wednesday Mornng, April 4th.

As my dear Fanny expresses a wish to hear an early account of the ball, I must inform her that I attended it with Mrs. Caroline Hardinge & our friend Caroline.

There were a few more than a hundred present, & tho' not graced by any of the nobility it proved an uncommonly pleasant ball, particularly to the dancers, as beaux were in great abundance. The dancing commenced with Miss Knatchbull & Mr. Cobb of Ightham & followed by about thirty couple. Capt. Woodgate [John] as Steward gave the greatest satisfaction & from his attention to all the company I think I may venture to say there has not been so popular a steward since the new ball room has been opened. The sombre garb of mourning admitted not of much variety among the dresses, but about a dozen *white* contributed to enliven the room. The hair was chiefly formed in braids ornamented with flowers & feathers, & many wore coronet combs with white pearls. All the young ladies have taken to dancing quadrilles, & as they were more approved of we had only two country dances. Mrs. Wells brought a large party, & among them Sir Thomas Croft, a very fine dancer & son of the late unfortunate Sir Richard Croft. Mrs. C. Hardinge made a good chaperone, & we did not get home till it wanted ten minutes to four. . . . The Family are now at Wilderness & the young ladies seem to enjoy this fine weather. Ld. Brecknock is returned from Vienna; we met him at the Grove & he seems to be improved by his intercourse with the world. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

Miss Humphry's place at Tonbridge was taken by Julia, and Mrs. Humphry, Frances and Mary Anne went to spend a few days with Mr. Baker in town, where their time was fully occupied in visiting the different places of interest. They attended the christening of their nephews William and Stephen Humphry at St. George's, Hanover Square; Richard and Julia were too unwell, and were privately baptised afterwards. Captain Newcomb was William's godfather; it would seem that the children's baptism had been delayed for some reason. Mr. Van, one of the Clerks in the Council Office, was seriously ill and not expected to survive many days; on his death, William Ozias Humphry expected an increase of salary of from £150 to £200 a year. It was customary in those days for those in the country to give their friends on going to London a number of commissions to execute. The following note, written on their return, refers to one of these, the tea.

"Seal, May ye 4th [1820].

My dearest Julia.

. . . . I am sorry I have not had an opportunity of sending my sister's tea, which is safely stored in the *House keepers'* room. We expect our Neighbours [the Mrs. Hardinges] home next Friday which will enliven us much. I suppose you hear a great deal of London intelligence from Mrs. [Charles] Hardinge. I grieve most sincerely for the distress the poor Allnutts are in, we have only to pray for dear Fanny's speedy release. We expect Mrs. William Humphry & her little Tribe whenever the children are well enough to travel; I have invited poor little William as I think a little country air quite necessary after the Hooping Cough. . . Elizabeth Humphry."

In June Mary Anne Humphry spent several days with Lady Hardinge at Sundridge, of which she has left a full account:—

"I went on Friday & they were so kind to send me home yesterday morning. General Wolf was staying there the whole time & likewise General Brooke, with Mr. & Mrs. Bloxam & a Miss Ansley, sister to the latter, for the first few days. I passed my time very agreeably and they were so obliging to take me on Saturday to call at Hill Park, Mrs. Gibbons', and afterwards to Mr. Bloxam's at Ide Hill. This place at the present season is very beautiful & I was surprised with the extent of view it commands on every side. When the Bloxam's first came to the Hill, it was you know considered a dreary spot, but by forming plantations & making a beautiful garden he has really rendered it an enviable situation. On Sunday after attending the morning service the Carriage was ordered and we went to pay a visit at Mr. Manning's [William Manning of Coombe Bank, M.P., was the father of Cardinal Manning] where we had the pleasure of seeing all the family. Miss

Manning by daylight is a very pretty girl & said to be extremely clever. Their house is even more splendidly fitted up than in Lord Frederick's time and they live in all the magnificence of the Eastern style. Afterwards we proceeded to Chevening Place. Lady Stanhope was gone out walking ; however we went in to view the principal apartments, which are very handsome, & his Library & collection of books are said to be the best in the neighbourhood. We were shewn the gardens, lately finished, & laid out after the French style with numberless gravel walks with parters of flowers interspersed bordered with box and covering a space of seven or eight acres. Beyond was a fine piece of water with a view of the surrounding country. After this we called upon Mrs. John Austen who had been confined just a month and was down stairs for the first time. On reaching the house two little smiling boys in a new garden chaise drawn by their nurses met us, & I have not seen finer children for some time ; her little girl is a very fine baby. Lady Catherine Stanhope happened to be there at the time, a fine rosy faced child about ten months old. While Lady Hardinge remained with Mrs. Austen, I attended the gentlemen round the garden which did not quite answer the description I had heard. I have now a wedding to inform you of. Miss Lane is engaged to marry a Mr. Fitzhugh, residing in the neighbourhood of Southampton, with the entire approbation of her friends. His father is a man of large fortune, and the Son was originally intended for the diplomatic line but afterwards preferred going into the church. After breakfast on Monday, while Lady Hardinge was preparing to return to town, I accompanied General Wolf to see the paper mills. I was much gratified with viewing the machinery & the whole process of making the paper, & had no idea that paper underwent so many changes before it comes into use. . .

We were much grieved to hear of the illness of poor Mrs. Charles Petley ; indeed her sufferings seem to have greatly alarmed all her Family, but a note received from my Uncle Henry informs us that all apprehensions of her danger are happily removed. I much fear there is no hope of a similar good report from South Park & in the present distressing state of poor Fanny Allnutt her Friends can only hope that her sufferings may not long be protracted. . . I am sure you will be concerned to hear of an event that has taken place at Kemsing. Poor Mr. Thomas Relph after only a few days illness died last week. His Death was brought on solely by distress of mind occasioned by the embarrassment of his affairs & has plunged all his Family in the deepest affliction, & his poor widow is said to be quite inconsolable. Mr. Edward Smith performed the whole of the duty here on Sunday, & Fanny thinks he has a very fine voice. . .

“ Tunbridge, Sunday, June 11th, 1820.

My dear Mother,

. . . The *Bells* are now *ringing* most *merrily* to celebrate the arrival of Mr. & Mrs. Willm. Scoones ; they have been spending a short time in the Isle of Wight since their Marriage. Mr. & Mrs. Carnell returned to Tunbridge on Friday. As Fanny is so much interested in *Tunbridge News*, I must inform her of a wedding which we hear (though not from any authority) is likely to take place ; it is said that Mr. Harmer's eldest son is paying his addresses to Miss Sophia Harvey. If this is the case I should think it would be a most advantageous match for the Lady, as he is a young man of excellent character. We were very sorry to hear of Mrs. Charles Petley's serious illness ; my Uncle Henry has informed us in confidence that his son Francis has obtained the refusal of Mr. Simmonds' House, but I must request you not to mention this again, as they wished it not to be known at present. I dined with Mrs. Luxford last Tuesday & met Mrs. & Miss Mascel, Mr. Ashburnham & Mr. James West. Miss Mascel (tho' not handsome) is a very sensible agreeable young Woman ; you may recollect she is the Lady that was mentioned for Mr. Lane last Xmas. They appeared much interested in every event relating to the Sevenoaks neighbourhood. Miss Luxford is now introduced in company ; she is much improved in her appearance & a remarkably good humoured pleasant girl. . .

The Law suit which was instituted against the Skinners Company has been decided in favour of Tunbridge, & I understand the School will gain an addition of four thousand a year to its funds. I am very glad to find Maryanne has enjoyed so pleasant a visit at Sundridge. Mrs. C. Hardinge is not looking the better for her London gayety. Her little girls are much grown and looking extremely well. I hear Mrs. Julia Hardinge has been quite well during her stay in Town, & been out to parties almost every day. I hear Lord Brecknock [Lord Camden's eldest son] entered the Tunbridge troop last week; he has taken John Woodgate's [of Stonewall] place as Lieutenant, under Mr. Nouaille. I am told Mr. Willm. Lambard is placed on half pay for two years, & that himself & Mrs. Willm. Lambard are coming to Sevenoaks to reside with his Family till they can procure a House. My Aunt has heard nothing from Mr. Alexander since Fanny left Tunbridge. I understand this delay is occasioned by Dr. Brodrip, who has been seriously ill, but is now recovering and I believe came to Summerhill last week. . . .

Juliana Humphry."

Everyone familiar with Jane Austen is aware that it was one of the customs of her period to form parties who drove in carriages to picnic in some retired spot and spend the day there. One of such picnics is described in a note written about this time.

"My dear Fanny,

. . . I accompanied a large Party yesterday to Buckhurst; the weather was uncommonly favourable for an *outdoors* Excursion & I spent a most agreeable day. The Party consisted of Mr. & Mrs. Luxford & their two Daughters, Mr. & Mrs. Hardinge, the Miss Eyles's, & the Miss Powells. Mrs. Luxford who formed the Party invited me, & Mrs. Hardinge in the kindest manner accomodated me with a seat in her carriage. We left Tunbridge about eleven, and reached the place of our destination a little before two. The situation of Buckhurst is very delightful. We went over the House & afterwards explored the beauty of the Grounds. An excellent cold dinner was provided by the party, of which we partook under a large Oak near the House. In the afternoon we walked to Withyam & went over the Church; a monument has lately been erected to the memory of the young Duke with a very suitable & appropriate inscription, said to be written by Ld. Whitworth. I was particularly gratified, indeed all the Company appeared much pleased with their visit, & Mr. Luxford purposes forming a party on the same plan to attend the Wells Races. I understand the Mrs. Hardinges are enjoying themselves very much in the Isle of Wight; they have taken Lodgings at Cowes for a fortnight from last Monday. Mr. & Mrs. Knox & the Doctor returned to Tunbridge last Thursday. Mr. Knox I am sorry to hear has been very unwell during his absence. . . . Juliana Humphry."

"Seal, Wednesday Mornng., Novr. 8th, 1820.

My dear Julia,

. . . We dined at Greatness the day Col. Thomas & his daughter returned from Tunbridge. They all seemed most happy in renewing their acquaintance with their former friends & neighbours. My Aunt they told us was looking remarkably well & not a day older than when they had last the pleasure of seeing her. Susan was very happy to meet you at Mrs. Knox's; she spent two days with us & is so intelligent that we derived much pleasure from her society & in hearing their different adventures since their residence on the Continent. All the family spent an evening with us before they left Greatness. Poor Mrs. William Thomas we thought looking less well & thinner than when she left England. Sir Richd. & Lady Hardinge have taken up their residence in London for the present. Sir Henry has lately been on a visit at Sundridge & also at the Grove. Fanny spent a day at the Grove during his stay, with Sir Richd & Lady Hardinge, Mr. & Miss Taylor & Mr. Henry Leake. Harriet Papillon came to the Grove on Wednesday to pass a month with her friend Caroline. The Mrs. Hardinges were much distressed yesterday on hearing of the

sudden death of Mrs. George Hardinge. She had been spending a fortnight with a friend in Suffolk. They have as yet heard few particulars, but imagine her death to have been occasioned by a fit of apoplexy. So many sad events of this nature have lately taken place in their family that the spirits of the Mrs. Hardinges seem much depressed at this time.

We have seen the Lady Pratts frequently of late; they brought us a large basket of dalia roots. They really pay great attention to the School & have now arranged for the girls to work in the former school room. Lady Georgiana is now on a visit to Lady Downshire. Yesterday after visiting the school we took a walk with Lady Frances & Lady Caroline, & on our return found Mr. Francis Woodgate. He thinks of quitting Nutfield very soon & taking early possession of his house at Tunbridge [Ferox Hall]. Mrs. Charles Thompson & her two second daughters have been staying for the last fortnight at Falke; previous to their visit there, the two young ladies had been passing ten days with Mr. Thomas(?) Dyke. Miss Fanny Thompson is a very pleasing girl, just seventeen, & very striking in her appearance. Mrs. Charles Thompson is still very handsome after having had sixteen children, eleven of whom survived. You will be surprized to hear that on Monday we dined with Mr. Whitehead who gave us an excellent dinner. We had a very pleasant day altho the party was small consisting of Mrs. C. Thompson & daughters, Mr. Thompson of Falke, with ourselves; perhaps it might have been enlivened by the addition of Mr. John Thomas [Thompson?] whom we were led to expect would have joined the party, but unfortunately the invitation was by mistake carried round by London & reached him too late. We are anxious to hear that the church at Tunbridge is opened; we hope that my Aunt will continue to be accomodated with a comfortable seat. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

Maryanne was to have taken Julia's place at Tonbridge, but the latter wrote deferring her departure till the Sevenoaks Ball was over, which she desired Maryanne might not miss by being at Tonbridge. The reply describes the event.

" Seal, Saturday Mornng., Nov. 25th, 1820.

My dear Julia,

. . . Having seen Mr. Francis Woodgate yesterday you have probably heard from him the particulars of the Ball. You may conceive that some of the ladies had not much dancing when I tell you there were only seven dancing gentlemen to twelve ladies. There was a beautiful supper & only forty to partake of it. Mr. Manning's family & Mr. & Mrs. John Austen were the only distant families present. There were only quadrilles & one country dance before we came away, but I understand it was concluded with our own national dances. Miss Manning who was attired in mourning was certainly the attraction of the evening. Mrs. Caroline Hardinge went early with the intention of passing an hour or two with Mrs. Otway, but poor woman she was too unwell to receive us, being confined to her bed for two days with an abscess. We therefore went on to Mrs. Lambard's & I had the pleasure of seeing Miss Bridon (who you know never attends Balls) looking more beautiful than ever. All the circle at River Hill with the exception of my Aunt, Mrs. C. Hardinge, Mr. Stephen Woodgate, Caroline & Harriet dined with us yesterday & Mrs. Nouaille came in the evening. Mr. Whitehead was prevented joining our party by the death of his sister in law, Mrs. Whitehead of Ash, & whose funeral he attended yesterday. The recent mortality in that family is really mournful and another son is said to be declining with a consumption. We have as yet had no illumination for the Queen altho a faint attempt was made on one evening. I am sure your sentiments on that subject will endear you to *your godmother*. Mr. Whitehead's praying for her *spotless* Majesty two Sundays has excited a great oration. Lord Camden spoke to him on Sunday & certainly he has laid himself open to a severe reprimand from his Bishop. I shall be glad to hear yr church is again open, tho' from the season of the year it must be damp and you shd be very careful on first attending it. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

“ Seal, Sunday, Decr. 17th, 1820.

My dearest Julia,

The Duchess of Dorset called here last Tuesday & was very conversable & agreeable; this morn'g we received an invitation from her Grace to a dance at Knole on Wednesday the 27th Inst. As this is the case I regret my dr Julia that you are not able to partake the amusement, as you are more of *an age to enjoy* dancing than myself. Miss F. & Miss E. Papillon have been at the Grove since Tuesday. We have been much gratified in seeing some of the former's paintings. She has lately finished two pieces of Feints, which are really some of the most beautiful productions of the kind I ever saw. We drank tea at Greatness on Friday with the party from the Grove, when Mr. Nouaille exhibited many of his interesting curiosities for the amusement of the young ladies. Our friend Peter came from Oxford for the Christmas vacation last Tuesday. Sir Richard Hardinge has sent down a box containing six caps that he intends as presents to his friends, out of which my Mother has received a very pretty white satten turban that will prove particularly acceptable should she feel herself equal to the fatigue of attending the Knole Ball. The Book-meeting is fixed for next Thursday, which my Mother will attend & perhaps one of us. I hear Tonbridge Church is extremely handsome; after having been deprived of publick service for so long a time, you must all feel most happy that it is again resumed. The Lady Pratts continue to interest themselves very much in the School; we generally meet them there of a Monday Morning, they purpose distributing rewards to the children this week previous to the Christmas holidays. Our friend Caroline (altho' not quite well) is in great spirits at the prospect of two fine Balls. . . .”

The two balls were the Duchess of Dorset's and the New Year's Ball. The latter is described by Miss Humphry in the next letter.

“ Seal, January 7th, 1821.

I reproached myself for having let a week pass without sending my dear Julia an account of the New Year's Ball; I must now inform her that it was a delightful one, and that Maryanne and myself enjoyed it very much. I do not know the number that were there, but from the appearance of the room should imagine considerably more than two hundred. It was really quite a County ball. Most of our *own* nobility were present; Lord Camden carried a party of 17 consisting of part of the family of the Duke of Montrose, Lord & Lady Castlereagh, Lord Ellenborough & his Brother &c.; we were quite gratified in having an opportunity of seeing so many publick characters. The ladies were more splendidly attired, and a much larger display of Jewels than at Knole; Lady Castlereagh was particularly brilliant. Dancing commenced about ten, with our own national dance, after which Quadrilles, waltzing & a Spanish dance succeeded. *Your sisters* danced all the Quadrilles, which perhaps you will be surprised to hear when you recollect that last year I thought my dancing days at an end. It was the general opinion that there was a much larger display of beauty than at Knole; Lady Caroline Pratt looked particularly well & was considered one of the Belles of the Evening. Miss Sidney came with the Mays; she appeared very happy to meet us & greeted us with all her former good humour & cordiality. Lord Brecknock & Mr. Sidney have accepted the office of Stewards for the present year. Mr. Hemming came down on Saturday evening & went with us to the Ball, with which he appeared much gratified; he was obliged to return to Town the following Monday morning being engaged to attend a private ball at Hampton that evening, given to celebrate the coming of age of two of his particular friends (twin Brothers) on that day. Our friend Mr. Baker is quite well. You will be happy to hear that Caroline Hardinge is very much recovered; she has for some days been able to come into the dressing room & enjoy the society of her friends. I spent a day with her last week & Maryanne is going to the Grove for the same purpose to-morrow. Poor Mrs. Otway died last Thursday; her health had been declining for some time but her friends did not apprehend that her end

was so near till a few days previous to her decease. She was so kind hearted & friendly a woman that her loss will long be lamented by all her family & friends. Mr. Townsend, a friend of Lord Camden's, performed the duty here this afternoon, & was very much admired; he is very young (not in Priest's orders) but a very animated preacher & promises to excel in his Profession. . . . Mr. Irving called here a few days ago & I am sorry to say gave but an indifferent account of Mrs. Irving's health; she is now at Eaton with her three little Girls. I hope Miss Luxford liked the Ball; she was attired in a very pretty dress. A large party from the Wells attended the Ball of which Mrs. Fane was the most distinguished for beauty of person & elegance of dancing. . . ."

Soon after this, Miss Humphry succeeded Julia at Tonbridge, and received a letter from Mary Anne describing yet another ball.

" Seal, Janry. 21st, 1821.

My dear Fanny,

. . . You may depend upon receiving your Italian Honeysuckles by Mrs. Nouaille on Monday next, when she purposes with Mr. Nouaille & Anne to spend a few days with Mr. & Mrs. West at the Postern. We were happy to find you had enjoyed several pleasant engagements since your return to Tunbridge, & Mr. Alexander giving you a frank was a fortunate circumstance as I am sure Mr. Acton would be gratified to receive a perusal of the Tunbridge news, from his *favorite cousin*. . . . Caroline Hardinge attended the last Ball with the Family at Wilderness; as usual, she was encircled by a *host of partners*. She is not inclined to vanity, or the attentions she meets with from Gentlemen on these occasions might turn the head of a young girl. There were eighty four in number and all the grandees, with the addition of Lady Glengal brought by Lady Stanhope, & Lady Downshire with her son, a charming boy eight years of age; Lady Caroline Pratt (always good natured to children) went down a country dance & this young boy afterwards wished to join in the quadrilles. Lady Londonderry & her nieces called here on Thursday & sat an hour; her manners are mild & pleasing which add a grace to the high endowments of her mind. On Friday we dined at Wilderness & spent a very pleasant day; Lady Elizabeth Pratt really seem'd delighted to see my Mother & paid her much attention. She has the most benign countenance I ever beheld, & the manner in which she spoke of our dear departed Father was truly gratifying, for whom I verily believe she entertained a sincere regard. Lord Camden went to town early the next morning & the two sisters departed for Baldero. My mother took it kind in Mrs. West calling upon her as her stay at Greatness was so short. My Mother & Julia are going this morning to 7 oaks to make some visits & are to take Mrs. Caroline Hardinge & her niece; one of their horses is laid up & so my Mother puts a pr. of Horses to their carriage. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

" Tunbridge, April 10th, 1821.

My dear Fanny,

. . . Mr. Alexander came to Summer Hill yesterday. He wishes extremely to liquidate my Aunt's debt as well as that of the other creditors, but *his* Solicitors have requested the delay of a few days till some necessary instruments are signed. The loss is his as the money is lying idle, & the creditors will receive interest to the day of payment; at the same time, the delay is vexatious to all parties. . . . Mr. & Mrs. Francis Woodgate returned from London on Saturday; Mr. Clarke approves of the manner in which little Johnny has been treated both by Mr. Webb & Mr. Morris & recommended them to pursue nearly a similar system. Mr. F. Woodgate executed the commission I gave him to my *intire satisfaction*. He made the purchase at Swan's in Picadilly as he cd not match the colour at Grafton House or any other place; this shop is considered one of the cheapest & best in London. My Aunt Rose desires me to thank you for your kind present of dalias, & which she has no doubt will greatly embellish her garden. Mr. F. Woodgate will be much obliged to you for a few of the Corcoris Japonica & to send them to him at the proper season

of the year. I imagine you are now beginning to look forward to our friends return at the Grove. Mrs. Woodgate call'd upon them in town & thought all the ladies looking remarkably well. Have you heard who has taken the house at Godding [probably that lately vacated by Francis Woodgate on his removal to Ferox Hall, Tonbridge]? How goes on our worthy vicar? & do you continue to beat him at chess? or perhaps, like your friend Mr. Brown, you now & then give him a game for a little encouragement? Mr. Bouvier left some considerable property; what he possessed in France he bequeathed to his brother there; he has left Miss Feldwick all his stock of wine & the furniture of the house, besides which she comes in for the house in the row given her (I believe) by Mrs. Bouvier, two hundred pounds to the maid servant, & twenty with his cloths to the man. Poor man, he made his will but a few hours before his death & was sensible to the last. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

The next letter describes in some detail an eloquent sermon by Mr. Dodd at Tonbridge; the collection at the church doors amounted to forty-six pounds, and Mr. Alexander who was in town sent a ten pound note.

" Tunbridge, May 21st, 1821.

My dear Julia,

I was truly happy to hear from the Miss Woodgates [of Riverhill] that my Mother, yourself & Fanny were enjoying the interesting scene that took place in the neighbourhood of Sevenoaks on Friday last; I shall hope to be favoured with a description, for altho' many particulars have reached me, the impression it made upon *your* minds will be very gratifying to me to hear. It must have been a proud day to Mrs. Lambard's family, & no one I doubt not felt more than Miss Bridon on the occasion.

It afforded me much pleasure to find from your kind letter that Mr. Baker had not omitted his usual invitation to Town & sincerely do I hope it will prove an agreeable visit to all the party. . . . I have seen the Miss Woodgates frequently; on Saturday I walked with Anne to the Postern, and am to take another walk with Anne & Sarah this morning. Mr. & Mrs. Knox had a large dinner party on Thursday, which I joined in the evening. The company were amused with some excellent sleight of hand performances, exhibited by a foreigner from the island of Corsica, with which the company expressed themselves much pleased. I was rejoiced to hear of Mr. Henry Walter's good fortune, equally honourable to his own character as well as to his noble patron who has conferred upon him so valuable a piece of preferment. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

We are fortunate in possessing a letter from Miss Humphry descriptive of her visit to London in June, showing what were then considered the amusements of the Metropolis. They started at nine o'clock on Wednesday morning and reached St. Paul's at two, where they found Mr. Baker surrounded by many of his relatives including a Miss Morris from Salisbury, "a very lively intelligent young woman," who reminded them a good deal of Fanny Allnutt. She continues:—

"After partaking some refreshment, Julia & myself accompanied some of the party to Piccadilly to view a beautiful collection of Paintings in water colours that are exhibited there; this art is brought to great perfection. We particularly admired the productions of Turner & Robson. Dr. Hemming was so obliging to procure us Tickets of admission for the anniversary of the Charity Schools at St. Pauls which took place on the following day, & a more gratifying & interesting scene can hardly be imagined. The number of children present, all neatly dressed and instructed by charity, amounted to ten thousand & the spectators beyond my calculation. The Bishop of Gloucester preached; we had very good seats & heard the musick, which was very fine, to great advantage.

Friday evening we attended a concert (for which Mr. Baker presented us with tickets) at the Hanover Square Rooms; we heard some beautiful singing & musick,

saw a great deal of genteel company, & had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Townes, her Daughters & Mrs. Ilbert; they pressed us very much to accompany them to the Foundling Hospital the following Sunday. Saturday we devoted to Shopping. Sunday Morning we walked to Mecklenburg Square, accompanied by Frederick Hemming & his brother Charles; we called upon our friends & went with them to Church. The service was remarkably well performed & we heard a most excellent & impressive sermon on the day from Mr. Hewlit; the children with a little professional aid sang beautifully. After service we saw the children dine, & went over the Hospital to see everything worthy of observation. Hogarth's celebrated picture of the March to Finchley & many other fine paintings are deposited there. We spent an hour with our friends, who have an excellent House handsomely furnished & delightfully situated. They all enquired much after you & desired to be most kindly remembered. The weather was too cold & uncertain for our projected visit to Richmond, but one fine morn'g we had a little row from Black Fryars to Westminster, & I agree with you in thinking it a most agreeable recreation. We visited the British Gallery in Pall Mall & were delighted in viewing so many distinguished & interesting works of ancient masters; West's picture of Christ healing the sick is exhibited there, which is wonderfully conceived & executed. We afterwards inspected a large collection of pictures that are to be disposed of by Lottery in Bond Street. We walked in the Burlington Arcade & Western Exchange which are nearly as attractive as the Soho Bazaar. We went to see the Egyptian Tomb, which must afford much gratification to antiquaries; it is very curious & gives a good idea of the ancient sepulchres of the Egyptians. The difficulties Belzoni encountered & the perseverance he displayed in search of these ancient relics are wonderful. We concluded our amusements with the Panorama of Naples which is the prettiest thing of the kind I ever saw; the bay of Naples & the surrounding scenery are beautiful. My Mother was quite well during her visit; she kept very quiet, not feeling herself equal to much exertion; the Panorama was the only amusement she partook of. We saw our friends in Charlotte Street frequently. Mrs. William Humphry is looking remarkably well, & the Infant tho small is a very healthy child; he is to be named Frederick; the rest of the Children are well & Richard quite restored to his former looks. We all dined with my Brother the day before we left Town. We had a great many commissions to execute for ourselves & friends; but I think you will say we contrived to blend a large share of amusements with them. . . ."

" Tonbridge, Novr. 19th, 1821.

. . . I wish I could send you a better account of our poor Invalid friend here, but with concern I inform you Mrs. F. Woodgate's sufferings increase; she says she is never free from pain. Her spirits at times are very much depressed. I often go & sit with her, as the society of her friends appears to afford her some relief. You have not answered the question respecting the field at Godden, which answer Mr. F. Woodgate is anxious to obtain. Mr. Knox, Mr. Luxford & Mr. W. Scoones were kept in Town all last week by the Skinner's Business, which did not come on till Friday. Mr. Knox came home late on Saturday night & returned early this morning. He says they shall probably be detained the whole of the present week & it is uncertain whether it will even then be decided. Mrs. James West had a little party last Friday evening; it consisted of Mrs. & Miss Salmon, Mrs. W. Harvey (who is staying with her daughter), Mr. & Mrs. Morris, Mr. F. Woodgate, Mr. Brown & myself; as the weather was so unfavourable Mrs. West was so kind to accommodate me with a bed & I spent the following day at Dry Hill. Mr. Salmon was too unwell to join the party; his tithe meeting at Tudely took place the beginning of the week & proved very unproductive; it is thought this disappointment (in the irritable state of his nerves) produced a return of indisposition. Johnny West's complaint proved the jaundice; he has been as yellow as an orange but is now recovering his complexion & is much better. . . . The Ball appears

to have been very *select* ; it is seldom at this season of the year that so large a display of nobility are present. My Aunt paid the remainder of the purchase money for the share of the Farm &c. on Friday to William Woodgate by the desire of Mr. West & Mr. Carnell*."

In November the Lord Chancellor gave his decision with respect to the litigation between Tonbridge School and the Skinners Company (the Governors). Sir Andrew Judde, founder of the school, had devised some property to the Skinners Company in trust for the school. Some of the property, then only grass fields, is now covered by what is part of the Borough of St. Pancras, and is of enormous value. The Skinners contended that they might retain for themselves whatever surplus there might be after providing for the school ; but this view was not shared by the Court, and the whole funds were ordered to be applied for school purposes. This dispute has been referred to in some of the previous letters, and is mentioned in the next :—

“ Monday Mornng., 8 o'clock [Seal, November, 1821].

My dear Fanny,

We have seen Mrs. Stephen Woodgate several times since she has been at the Grove. Yesterday Caroline Hardinge, Charles, Arthur & Jane [Woodgate] dined with us. I have now a *piece of news* to communicate, which I think will occasion you some surprize. Sir Henry Hardinge is soon to be united to Lady Emily James. This intelligence was communicated to us a short time ago by the Mrs. Hardinges, but I must request you not to mention it at present, as they wish it not to be publicly known till after the ceremony has taken place. Sir Henry has been staying at Wynyard with Lord Stewart for some months ; and Lady Londonderry and her daughter have been likewise in the House. His family appear much pleased with the connection although at present they will have a very limited income. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hardinge are returned to Ketton ; Mr. Hardinge is anxious to remain in the North till after his Brother's Marriage has taken place. Mrs. Charles Hardinge was to dine with Lady Stewart to be introduced to her future sister. Lord Stewart has invited all Sir Henry's Family to be present at the wedding, but they consider it too distant a journey for them to undertake at this season of the year. After the ceremony has taken place, the Bride and Bridegroom are to remain at Wynyard for a Month. Sir Henry is now in Town, and is coming into this Neighbourhood in a few days. Lady Elizabeth Pratt is at Wilderness, and Lady Londonderry is expected in the course of the present week. The accounts of poor Miss Fanny Lambard are much more unfavourable. The xening of Mr. Willm Lambard's son is to take place next Monday ; our friends at the Grove are invited to dine with them on the occasion, after which Mr. & Mrs. Lambard are going to join their family at Hastings. We were happy to see in the Papers that the Lord Chancellor's decision is in favour of Tunbridge School ; it must eventually prove of great advantage to the town, and I hope that it will be settled soon enough for our cousins at Dryhill, the Wests, to derive advantage from it. . . . Julia Humphry."

In December, Mary Anne Humphry writes from Seal :—

“ The Miss Woodgates [of Riverhill] with William Woodgate [afterwards of Swaylands] called here for five minutes yesterday ; they were in a hurry as William was going to Town & was fearful of being too late for the Coach. Mrs. Charles Petley went to Town early in the week to consult Dr. Clarke, having experienced a change of symptoms in her side. Mrs. Lightfoot has made another addition to her family. We partook of a haunch of venison yesterday, & spent a sociable pleasant day with the family at the Grove. Mrs. Julia Hardinge (altho' much improved in Health) is too much of an invalid to have a large party. As Mrs. S. Woodgate calls on you this morning by appointment, you will hear an account of her brother's intended wedding. In case other morning visitors should prevent

* See Reference Sheet.

this communication & I know you are interested in this occasion, I insert a few particulars. Mr. & Mrs. Hardinge & Mrs. Hardinge of Ketton (if she finds herself equal to the undertaking) with other friends assemble at Wyndyard on the eighth. On the tenth a breakfast *à la fourchette* is to be given about one o'clock, & at four Sir Henry is to be united to Lady Emily by special licence. The ceremony is to be performed by his Brother Charles, after which the bride and bridegroom set off for a seat of Lord Stewart's twenty miles from Wyndyard. In the meantime the guests are to enjoy themselves, probably with a ball, & the evening will conclude with a splendid supper. The next day all the party assembled are to separate. All these arrangements are made by Lady Stewart, & Lord Castlereagh has expressed his approbation of the wedding in a very kind & friendly manner. Sir Henry has taken a house in Grosvenor Square for the winter."

"Seal, March 8th, 1822.

My dear Fanny,

. . . Poor Mrs. Julia Hardinge has not been so well for the last week, & Mrs. Caroline in consequence has suffered much from anxiety. The cheerful society of Mrs. Stephen is a great comfort to her aunts; she leaves them to-morrow. They will not be alone again for some time, for Mrs. Hardinge is to spend a few days with them on Monday & Miss Fanny Papillon comes to the Grove the middle of the month. Mr. & Mrs. Smith came down to Greatness Saturday & returned early Monday morning. Julia walked to call upon Mrs. Nouaille yesterday with Mrs. S. Woodgate & Caroline. Mrs. Allnutt is going on well & Maria is quite recovered. Mrs. Allnutt has received a letter from Miss Sydney in which she speaks in high terms of the Ladies Keppel. Mr. William Coke has conducted himself remarkably well on the marriage of his Uncle, altho' he feels the disappointment & says "*his Sun is now set.*" This strange Union of Mr. Coke is universally censured, & the general opinion seems to be that he has disgraced the character he has hitherto sustained. We are sorry to hear there is a demur to Anna Woodgate's wedding; when an event of this kind is publicly announced, any impediment to arise is always a disadvantage to the young lady. . . ."

Meanwhile Mrs. Julia Hardinge's health was breaking up, and she died in April, 1822. After describing the progress of her disorder in some detail, Mary Anne Humphry proceeds (1st April, 1822) :—

" . . . Caroline was uneasy at the accounts she heard of her aunt and requested to return, as she did yesterday; tho' pleasure awaited her in all directions, she could not enjoy it in the present suffering state of her aunt. Fanny Papillon has proved an admirable nurse during her absence & was delighted to see her return accompanied by her brother Tom [Papillon], who escorted his cousin from London. He called here yesterday after lunch and I am quite of your opinion in thinking him a very fine young man with remarkably pleasing manners. Julia dined & slept at the Grove on Friday & thought there was a material alteration in poor Mrs. Julia. Sir Richard & Lady Hardinge are coming to Sundridge on Thursday; Sir Richard wishes to give up his house in the country provided anyone will take the lease, but as this is doubtful on the terms he proposes his family think he may continue there for another year. . . . John Thompson favoured us with a visit on Wednesday; the *magnificent* beauty Miss Marquet has been staying at Lullingstone—he seemed mortified that his friend Whitehead (who had dined there the day before) did not extol her in the same rapturous terms as himself, & you will be surprised to hear that he prefers Caroline Hardinge in the tout ensemble. He has passed a most *agreeable* three months at the house of his patron, in the society of Miss Calcraft and others, all of whom were to disperse the end of last week. He admired our Greenhouse, and said I do assure you Miss Maryanne they are *very* superior to the plants at Lullingstone; he has promised to bring us some Neapolitan violets. I was quite concerned to hear the account you gave of Henry Scoones, but hope an amendment has before this taken place. Miss Cobb the younger is

going to be very well married to a Mr. Lambart of Beau Port near Hastings. Mrs. & Miss Randolf called here on Friday & the day before we had a visit from Mrs. Parsons & Mrs. Crow. Do inform us if any of our Tunbridge friends intend coming to the Ball; the Knole family, as Lady Plymouth is going to them, will probably be there. . . . Your letter is just arrived & I have only time to say you are the best correspondent in the world. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

"Tonbridge, April 16th, 1822.

My dear Julia,

. . . I was happy to hear from Mr. & Mrs. S. Woodgate (who I dined with at the Vicarage on Friday on their return from the Grove) that they found poor Mrs. Julia Hardinge in a more comfortable state than they expected; she was quite cheerful & enlivened by Sir Henry's visit & their society, & her spirits were less depressed at parting than usual. Mrs. F. Woodgate is much better, although at times she endures acute pains. Mr. John Thompson last week spent a few days with his friend Mr. J. Harman at Holmden. He called at Dryhill & upon Mr. & Mrs. F. Woodgate; I was *not a little mortified* that he did not favour us with a visit, perhaps you or Maryanne can explain the *cause* of this *apparent neglect*. Mr. Donald I believe was also of the party. It cannot be said Tonbridge is destitute of Beaus. About a fortnight ago I saw more than a hundred Gentlemen of fashion; Lord Derby's hounds were turned out at Wickham and persued a stag to the Wells, where the poor animal was taken in a Cottage it had entered for safety by the rocks. Three hundred noblemen & Gentlemen followed the chase; many of them returned by Tonbridge & I do not know when I have seen so many handsome young men. I was very sorry to hear from Mrs. S. Woodgate that our friend Mrs. Whitaker is very much out of spirits on account of her nephew George having failed in business. This unfortunate event happened a few days after the birth of his fifth child; no blame is attached to him, his failure being solely occasioned by a strong opposition in Trade. The Measels have again made their appearance here; George Luxford came home for the Easter Holidays, & a few days ago failed with the complaint. It is supposed he brought the infection from School. Poor Henry Scoones's complaint is decidedly on his lungs, & I am concerned to hear little hopes are entertained of his recovery. I have been invited to the Knox's twice lately, once to spend a day en famille, & last Friday evening to meet the Francis Woodgates; I was sorry I was not able to accept either invitation. Anna [Woodgate] is still there; she tells me she thinks of taking up her abode at Hastings. I am sorry to tell you all visiting & intercourse has been suspended between the Knox's & Hardinges since Anna has been at Tonbridge; surely it would be better to lose the recollections of these misunderstandings in oblivion. My Aunt is making some Raisin Wine. . . . Mr. Tom May is gone to France; when he comes back, do not you think he will a *little* resemble the *Monkey* who has seen the world? I think I hear you *censure* me for this remark; but the Gentleman is so conceited that surely he is a fair object for a little satire. As the Ball proved so good a one I am very sorry you & Maryanne were not there; I am told Caroline never looked better than on that occasion. Alicia & John West dined here Sunday; William joined the party in the afternoon, when we had a very pleasant walk that we all enjoyed much. . . . Frances Humphry."

The next letter, written in reply, announces Mrs. Julia Hardinge's death:—

"My dear Fanny,

. . . Before you receive this you will probably have heard of the death of our valuable neighbour Mrs. Julia Hardinge. This Event took place yesterday morning about eleven o'clock; no alteration had taken place in her symptoms for some time till the day before, when Mr. Kelson thought her not so well & she took a little castor oil at going to Bed, after which she went to sleep, & passed a comfortable night. About ten o'clock a material change was observed by her Family, when Mr. Richards was sent for, but before he arrived the vital spark was extinguished and her life was terminated without a struggle. My Mother went

to the Grove yesterday with Mrs. Nouaille, when they saw Mrs. Caroline Hardinge who was as composed as ought to be expected, and tho deeply affected feels grateful to Providence that her departed sister did not longer languish on the bed of sickness, and that her sufferings were ended in so tranquil a manner. Mrs. Stephen Woodgate & Mr. Hardinge came to the Grove immediately that they received the Intelligence of the melancholy Event. I am sure we have lost a most warm hearted & excellent Friend ; perhaps her real character was only known to her Relations & most intimate Friends, and the Recollection of her many virtues will long live in their Remembrance. Caroline Hardinge & Fanny Papillon dined here Monday, and tho' they were aware that poor Mrs. Julia was in a most precarious state had no idea that her end was so near. Mrs. Caroline Hardinge was so strongly united in affection to her Sister that she must feel the separation most severely, but her Relations are so numerous and they are so much attached to each other that I have no doubt but she will receive every alleviation from their kindness and attention.

Lord Camden's Family returned to Town Monday. We saw them frequently during their stay, & on Sunday my Mother, Maryanne and myself dined at Wilderness, and really I do not know when we have enjoyed a Visit more ; all the family were so very condescending and agreeable. Lord Brecknock returned a few days before, we think him improved both in person and manner. Mr. Gower, who was staying in the House, Mr. Petley and Mr. Kelson were also of the party. In the evening the young Ladies entertained us by shewing us views of Rome, Naples, Venice and other curiosities which Lord Brecknock had brought from Italy. Lady Frances seems to think her friend Miss Humphry has stayed long enough at Tunbridge & wishes to see her again. You will be glad to hear that Mr. Irving has succeeded to a very valuable Living in Dorsetshire, presented to him by Doctor Goodall ; it is situated in a delightful part of the country & he intends to vacate his living in Sussex. We have not seen the Riverhill family for some time ; poor Sarah has been very unwell lately with an ague in her Head. We are quite at a loss to account for Mr. John Thompson's not having paid a visit to his *particular* Friend Miss Humphry. Mrs. West's visit to Greatness is postponed on account of Mrs. Matthew's illness
Juliana Humphry."

From March to July, 1822, there are a series of proposals from Mr. Whitehead for Julia Humphry. It is probable that Mr. Whitehead, the Vicar of Seal and an old and valued friend of the family, was becoming advanced in years, and his addresses discouraged for that reason. His character was in every way amiable and respectable and his fortune considerable.

Lady Frances Pratt, mentioned in the last letter, died in July, 1822, and her funeral is described by Julia in a letter to Miss Humphry.

" The Funeral of Lady Frances Pratt took place here last Tuesday. It was conducted in a very private manner. Lord Camden & Lord Stuart attended as mourners. Lord Brecknock was so much afflicted by the death of his sister that he was unable to be present. The Procession consisted of a Hearse & six and two mourning coaches & four, followed by Ld. Camden's carriage. The Children of the National School attended by the desire of Ld. & Lady Camden, thinking it would be agreeable to the wishes of Lady Frances who took so lively an Interest in their welfare. The Girls had mourning given them for the occasion & the Boys black crape hatbands. . . . We hear Mrs. Randolph is much pleased with her son's intended marriage ; Miss Drummond has an Independent Fortune of five hundred a year. We have heard a rumour of another wedding ; it is said Mr. T. Harvey is to be united to Miss Nunn, a niece of Miss White's."

Mr. Harvey, Vicar of Cowden, was brother of the second Mrs. Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove ; Miss Nunn had a fortune of £60,000. That month Maryanne Humphry joined Mr. and Mrs. West and Frances Woodgate at Hastings, where

it was considered her health would be improved by the sea bathing. The Wests had taken Mrs. Wingfield's house on the parade.

"My dear Maryanne,

. . . The kind reception you received from Mr. & Mrs. West was very gratifying, I think you cannot do otherwise than enjoy yourself extremely in so pleasant a place as Hastings, and in the society of such agreeable Friends. We heard from my Brother a few days after you left us ; he did not find himself so well on his return to Town, and is advised by his medical attendants to spend as much time as possible in the country this summer, in consequence of which he came to us again last Friday, accompanied by his little son Richard. My Brother's health is already a little improved, & we hope this visit will quite compleat his Recovery ; he purposes remaining about ten days, when he will be obliged to return to Town, as one or two of the clerks in the Council office are to go in the suite of the King to Scotland. William does not find his Health equal to undertake a journey towards the North, therefore he will be obliged to resume his official duties during his Majesty's absence. Richard is not very strong and we fear his complaint has increased. Sir Henry and Lady Emily Hardinge spent a few days at the Grove last week. Sir Henry called here accompanied by his Lady, as he wished to have an opportunity of introducing her to us. Time has made a great alteration in her appearance, I can scarcely believe she is the very pretty Lady Emily Stuart that I formerly remember as a belle at the Wilderness Ball. Coll. & Mrs. Evelyn call'd Saturday to invite us to dine at St. Clere to-morrow. My Mother is not equal to going out, but Fanny & myself have accepted their Invitation, & anticipate much pleasure from seeing their Gardens & collection of Plants, which are so much celebrated for their beauty. Mrs. Nouaille and Anne walked over and drank Tea with us Saturday Evening ; her sons are returned from School looking extremely well. Philip is much grown. Fanny had a sociable letter from my Aunt Rose yesterday, it is written with much spirit and is really a wonderful Epistle for a Lady that has nearly attained her eighty third year. She has been made very nervous by the melancholy event which has taken place at her neighbour's the Miss de St. Croix's ; she expresses herself very anxious for me to come to her. In consequence of my Brother's being here I do not think I can conveniently leave home till next week. . ."

On Maryanne's return, Mrs. Humphry made a visit to Tonbridge, after which Julia spent some time there.

"Seal, Sept. 20th, 1822.

My dear Julia,

. . . Mr. Baker & my Brother do not come to us till the end of the month. Mr. Baker has been absent for a month in Devonshire. . . . He has relinquished Business in favor of his nephew ; he continues to reside in the House & means to do so to the end of his Life. I have drawn two Patterns for Miss Luxford, but am so little satisfied with my performance that I fear the *Miss Humphry's taste* will not be held in such high esteem in future. My Mother & Maryanne accompanied Mrs. Nouaille to drink Tea at the Grove to meet Mrs. S. Woodgate ; the preceding day I dined there with Miss Burton, the Sundridge party (with the exception of Mrs. Charles Hardinge who could not venture so far from her little Boy), & the Stephen Woodgates. William Woodgate joined the Party in the Evening & proceeded to Town by the Mail the same night. I understand the Party at the Pembury Christening is to be very numerous ; as you are to dine there & probably will only be invited in the evening to Mr. Hardinge's, if you have made yr new Gown I should be tempted to wear it. Caroline Hardinge is making a new Dress for the occasion. Mr. John Thompson made us a sociable visit last week. He enquired very *tenderly* after Miss Julia ; he told us he had been unmercifully rallied by the Miss Richards at the sale the day before ; they said, addressing Sir Thomas Dyke, Mr. Whitehead & himself, that they considered Bachelors quite a nuisance to society. Mr. Whitehead had a dinner party last week consisting chiefly of the Thompson family. Sir Thomas

Lennard has announced to Mrs. Hardinge that his eldest Daughter is soon to be united to Mr. St. Albyn, a young clergyman, son of John St. Albyn ; it is rather a match of entertainment than splendor. My uncle Henry was so good as to come over & spend a morning with us last week ; he appears remarkably well. Richard often talks of his dear Aunt Julia ; his general health is certainly improved, but I fear the weakness in his back increases. He is really a most engaging child & a great favourite with us all."

" Seal, Octr. 16th, 1822.

My dear Julia,

. . . My Brother's last letter gave a more favourable account of the Children ; since the death of poor little Stephen they have been in great anxiety for Frederick. He is now, I am happy to add, much better and William and Julia quite recovered [from measles]. The Measels are at this time very prevalent here ; we trust by not allowing Richard to go into the Village he will escape Infection. He is in very good health, but I am sorry to say we think the weakness in his back decidedly increased. He is so affectionate & engaging a Child that we shall all be very sorry to part with him ; at the same time we are anxious for him to have good advice, & hope my Brother will lose no time in consulting Mr. Ward on his return to Town. Mr. Baker left us yesterday ; he is remarkably well & more active than when he last visited us. He rose every morning at 7 & walked more than usual. Last Friday he took us to Knole when Mrs. Hardinge lent us her Donkey Chaise & Caroline joined our Party. It is always a treat to go over the House & the day was so fine that I never saw it to more advantage ; it is kept in the nicest order possible. A very good likeness of Lady Delawar by Saunders is the only addition to the Pictures. We did not attend the Fair on Saturday, but hearing there was a very good collection of animals, Mr. Baker kindly postponed his return to Town that he might accompany us Monday, when Caroline again joined our Party. We were much gratified in seeing many curious animals, including the Bonassus that created so much curiosity in Town last year. We afterwards partook of a most hospitable collation at Mrs. Machin's, met many of the Neighbourhood, & spent a most agreeable morning. . . . Mr. Whitehead dined here last week, & Mrs. Hardinge, Caroline, two Miss Papillons with Mrs. Nouaille & Anne came in the Evening ; the night before we met a little Party at Greatness. Anne Nouaille anticipates much pleasure from her visit to the Postern. Ld. Camden & Ld. Brecknock are gone into Wales : Lady Camden & her Daughters are spending the interval of their absence at Hastings. We last week received a present of a beautiful basket of Grapes from Wilderness, which were particularly acceptable when we had friends to partake of them. Mrs. Hardinge & Caroline go to Town to-morrow to be present at the Christening of Sir Henry's little Boy, which is to take place the following day. Pray tell my Aunt we shall not forget to drink her health in a *bumper* on Friday. We are grieved to hear poor Mrs. F. Woodgate is suffering so much, & fear from the nature of her complaint the prospect of her obtaining relief is very uncertain. . . . Frances Humphry."

The two letters following must have been written some time in 1823 ; the first is from Miss Humphry to Julia at Tonbridge :—

" . . . Lady Camden wrote to my Mother last week offering her the use of her Carriage to take a drive round the Duchess' new roads & call on Ly. Aboyne ; as my Mother did not feel very well on that day she declined. The following morning Lord Camden called again & said, altho' my Mother was not well enough to make a formal visit, they hoped she would come & partake a family Dinner at Wilderness & they would have no other Company. We accordingly dined there on Saturday & spent a very pleasant day ; I may say nothing could exceed the kind attentions of all the family. . . . Mr. & Mrs. S. Woodgate are at the Grove for a few days ; they went to Shooters Hill Monday se'nnight in their open carriage, when they both caught cold & have been so unwell that it put an end to their expected enjoyment."

The next is a reply to the foregoing letter, written from Tonbridge.

“ . . . Since you heard from me I am commenced quite a gay character. . . . On Monday I dined & slept at Dryhill to meet Mr. Denny Ashburnham, & was much gratified by hearing him sing many of his favorite songs. Sir Willm’s Health continues much the same; from what I hear I imagine he has quite lost his Faculties & is reduced to a state of second childhood. Friday Evening I spent at the Postern. . . . Mrs. Francis Woodgate has called on us twice this week & really appears better; little Stephen continues to go on favourably & every hope is entertained that he will do well. Mr. Harman is soon to leave Holmden; the House in the Town has been painted & preparing for them, but I now hear he has obtained the refusal of Nisols, which will be more convenient for his business. The Lectures are to conclude this Evening; the Funds are exhausted, therefore they are obliged to be discontinued. . . .”

In August some of the family took lodgings in George Street, Hastings, from which the next letter is written on the 15th.

“ My dear Fanny,

After we parted at Tonbridge we had a most propitious journey and arrived at Hastings about four o’clock. Mr. West was waiting in the Town & very kindly conducted us to our new abode. We afterwards dined with Mr. & Mrs. West, who would take no excuse & insisted on all our Party’s joining their Family circle. Our lodgings are very comfortable, the Bedrooms airy & fully answer our expectations. I am happy to inform you my Mother is quite well & enjoys walking on the Parade and the amusements of Hastings extremely. My Brother’s health has already derived benefit & we hope the sea Breezes will have a most salutary effect on him; he has not quite lost his Rheumatic Pains & therefore thinks of going into the warm Bath next week, which is strongly recommended to him by all his Friends. Maryanne bathes every other morning. She goes into the sea with much courage & feels refreshed after it, therefore there is every reason to hope it will prove beneficial. I confess I was a little overcome by my *first dip in the ocean*, but soon recovered my courage & think I shall now enjoy it very much. Our friends from Crowhurst visited us on Saturday & on Tuesday Mr. & Mrs. Rush & Maryanne dined here; they gave us a pressing invitation to visit them at Crowhurst, which we hope to do during our stay. Mrs. Rush expects the two Miss Claggetts to spend a fortnight with her in a few days. The Parade is very gay of an Evening, & we enjoy extremely walking on the Beach and inhaling the sea Breezes. Maryanne frequently mounts the Hills after bathing; I do not always accompany her on these Rambles, as she ascends with much more facility than myself. I met Mr. Ashburnham yesterday morning. . . . Hastings is not so full as last year, & many Lodgings are to be Lett; this is supposed to be occasioned by the lateness of the season and the falling of the cliff in the winter which spread an alarm & has sent many Families in Town, which were in the Habit of coming here, to other sea Places. We hear the Miss Millwards are gone to France for six weeks, & Mrs. North and her Family are staying at Tunbridge Wells. Mr. & Mrs. West and their Party’s Residence here are a great acquisition to us; after walking on the Parade of an Eveng we frequently adjourn to each other’s Lodgings when my Mother & my Brother have a sociable Rubber with them. Mr. & Mrs. Wills (Mrs. Whitaker’s Neighbours) called on us last week; she is a very pretty pleasing woman; they are staying at Hastings for the benefit of her Health. Mrs. J. Ashburnham & her sweet little Boy have just paid us a visit. Sir Wm. was considered rather better this Mornng. You would be amused to see William on the Parade; he is in *high Feather* & makes new acquaintance every Eveng.”

“ Monday, Jan. 7th, 1824, [Seal].

My dear Fanny,

We were much concerned to hear of the indisposition of Fanny Woodgate & happy she is now recovering from the effects of it; the postponement of the party

at Greatness was a disappointment to our friends there, as well as ourselves, as you was included amongst the Guests invited. Julia dined there with Mr. Lipscomb & Mr. Auber, & my Mother & myself went in the evening. There was a fine dinner & it was a pity that more friends did not partake of it. We attended the New Years Ball on Thursday with Caroline Hardinge, her brother Richard, & Miss Papillon. The company present amounted to two hundred & fifteen, which exceeded by four the opening of the Ball room in 1819. Ld. Camden carried a party of fifteen, Lady Geary & her daughter, Mr. & Mrs. Choundney Deering &c. The young ladies left the room before supper, but Ld. Camden & his son remained. The Duchess & Ld. Whitworth came for a short time; Miss Russel (whom you may remember) was with them, very fashionable & graceful in her appearance, and Mrs. & Miss Loyde. Lady Stanhope brought a Party of six ladies: Lady Harriet Neville with her Aunt were likewise present. The Ball was graced with numerous Belles, but Miss Harriet & Elizabeth Bisco were the most admired. Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Streatfeild (the bride) two sons & a daughter were there; we were happy to meet Mrs. Streatfeild again, but thought her altered in appearance. Rosa Woodgate came from Greenwich with her Brother; had her dress been handsomer, she would have appeared to more advantage altho' many thought her a fine Girl. Julia & myself enjoyed the ball exceedingly; our party were extremely kind & attentive; I declined dancing as the room was so warm, altho' frequently *solicited* for this purpose.

I must now tell you of a rumour that has reached us; Sarah Woodgate [of Riverhill] is said to be engaged to Mr. Lipscomb. We have it from no authority, but the report is very prevalent in the Neighbourhood. Mrs. Caroline Hardinge has not ventured out this Xmas. She has had several parties; we attended one on Saturday where was Miss Burton, Miss Clements, Mr. Lambard & his daughters, Sir Richard Hardinge & Miss Taylor, Mr. Petley, Mrs. Nouaille & two sons. Mr. Irving is spending a few days at Wildernesse; he call'd here Saturday. Mrs. Irving has recovered her health; they have three children, the youngest (a boy) is nine months old. He has a charming situation in Dorsetshire, a good house, and his living extends twelve miles; it is distant twenty two miles from Weymouth & twelve from Pool. Our guests on Monday consisted of Uncle Henry, the Captain & Sarah [Woodgate], Caroline, Miss Papillon & Richard Hardinge, Mrs. Nouaille, Anne & Julius, & Mr. Whitehead. Our friends were very cheerful & seemed to enjoy themselves. My Mother did not dine below, which saved her fatigue & enabled her to enjoy a rubber in the evening. In enumerating our guests I forgot to name a Mr. Buttonshaw who came unexpectedly to Greatness; as Mr. Nouaille went to Town that morning with his son Philip, Mrs. Nouaille of course brought him. He distinguished himself last year at the University, is gentlemanlike in his manners & intended for the Church. At present he takes pupils & Julius is one of the number. Mr. John Thompson performed the whole duty here on Sunday; he preached an excellent sermon, "so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Ld. Camden admired it very much. . . . My Mother has sent my Brother & Sister her annual present of pork &c., which reached them in proper time; they are all well. . . .

Maryanne Humphry."

Mrs. Thomas Streatfeild was of Charts Edge; she was a Miss Harvey and the widow of Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove. The rumour with reference to Sarah Woodgate proved well founded, for nine months later she was married to Mr. Lipscomb. The next letter is addressed to Miss Humphry at Tonbridge:—

"Seal, Monday Morning, Feby. 9th, 1824.

"We were happy to hear from Miss Callender yesterday so good an account of my Aunt & yourself. She tells us she has enjoyed many a pleasant walk with you during her stay with her sister at Tunbridge [Mrs. Charles Hardinge]. Mrs. Caroline Hardinge will be alone with Arthur for the next few days as her two young friends go to Maidstone this morning for a ball there to-morrow, & likewise to partake of other amusements. Julia, I believe, told you when she last wrote I was then

at the Grove ; they were so kind to carry me to St. Clere, & I was much gratified in seeing the House (having never been there before), & it being a lovely morning Caroline & I explored the garden, Greenhouses &c. . . . Mrs. Evelyn was very unwell with the gout in her right hand, & unable to dress or feed herself. Mrs. Allnutt spent two days at Greatness last week ; she drank tea here & at the Grove. Maria she said was quite well & anticipating much pleasure from Mr. Meggison's Ball which takes place to-night. Mrs. Lambard's family are going & likewise Mr., Mrs. & Miss Haranc. You perhaps heard that Mr. Herries was prevented acting as Steward at the last Sevenoaks ball, from the illness of his little Girl ; she died at Montreal last week at the age of seven years. Mrs. Rush came to Greatness on Monday ; during her stay we had an evening party at Mrs. Nouaille's, here, and at the Grove. She went on Saturday to Feversham where Mr. Rush was to meet her & return with her to Crowhurst. A living has lately fallen to her eldest brother as canon of St. Paul's, & she tells me he is in expectation of another valuable piece of preferment. Her sister she likewise informed me is going to be extremely well married. Anne Nouaille is to make her a visit at Crowhurst with her Brother Peter in May. We think she seems rather tired of her present situation ; from the unfavourable state of the soil many months pass without her being able to get out or even take a walk, & this with a young family is a serious inconvenience. Lady Aboyne has lent her house at Godding for two or three months in the Spring to Capt. & Lady Mary Seymour, during which time the house at the Tan yard is to be prepared for their reception, & indeed I believe the Duchess & Ld. Whitworth have already begun the alteration ; with the improvements they propose making it will be made a better House than that at Godding. We grieve to hear Mrs. Francis Woodgate continues so great a sufferer. . . . We are glad Mr. & Mrs. James West were so fortunate in their weather when they visited the Metropolis ; William & Alicia I am sure enjoyed the theatre. While Julia & I were paying some visits last week with Caroline Hardinge at Mrs. Randolph's &c. Mrs. & Miss Harenc called upon my Mother ; she likes them very much & thinks Mrs. Harenc particularly agreeable. I forgot to inform you they invited us with C. Hardinge to dine & go with them to the ball new years night. Dr. Slade is made dean of Chichester ; we hear from his retired habits this promotion does not yeald him much pleasure. We have just received a very kind invitation from my Uncle Henry to dine at River Hill Tuesday week & wch my Mother has accepted provided she continues pretty well. We are much concerned to hear the accounts of Fanny Woodgate are not more favourable, the sea air will we trust prove beneficial. . . .

Maryanne Humphry."

To this period probably must be assigned the following note addressed to Miss Humphry at Tonbridge :—

"Sir Richard & Lady Hardinge are gone to Town for the winter. Miss Callendar accompanied them for three weeks, after which she returns to her sister. Maryanne & myself spent a very pleasant Eveng at Wilderness last Friday ; Lady Camden & her Daughters were very kind & obliging ; they shewed us several specimens of Platt made from English Grasses, which it is thought will equal the Leghorn in beauty & durability, & if brought to perfection will prove a new acquisition to the manufacturers of this country. Philip & Anne Nouaille drank tea with my Mother and Maryanne last night. They gave them every particular of the Postern dance, & it being so new a scene to them they appeared quite delighted with their Evening. Caroline Hardinge when in the North received a handsome present from her Mother, & during her last visit to town she purchased with it a Ruby Garnet necklace & cross, set in gold. It is exceedingly handsome & her Aunt tells her is too superb for a spinster. I was very glad to hear Mrs. Jas. West had again made her appearance at a Dance & hope Alicia derived much pleasure from it. Mrs. Lightfoot call'd yesterday ; she is staying with Mrs. Streatfeild with a large part of her Family. . . . Juliana Humphry."

“ Seal, Monday Morning, March 15th, 1824.

My dear Fanny,

The visit of Sir William & his nephew James [West, junior] gave us all much pleasure. We regretted they were not prevailed on to stay all night, as they must have experienced a cold ride home. I was in great hopes of meeting with a cast to Tunbridge this week, & have *sounded* all my friends upon the subject. Caroline Hardinge tells us that as Mrs. Stephen Woodgate has lost her poor baby, the carriage will probably soon go down for her to spend a little time at the Grove, & Mrs. Nouaille has for the last week wished to pass a day at the Postern, but having the two Boys still with her & three of her female servants about to quit, has not been able to carry her wishes into effect. Mr. Whitehead has decided upon taking a curate. . . . John Thompson paid us a visit on Wednesday of two hours. He seemed to lament deeply the loss of his little niece & said Mr. F. Woodgate had written a very feeling & consoling letter, which has contributed to sooth their minds on this trying occasion. Miss Fanny Thompson you will be sorry to hear is not in good health; she has lately been staying with her cousin & is now on a visit at Lullingstone with Mrs. Twysden & two other young ladies, likewise guests of Sir Thomas Dyke's. My Mother Thursday sen'ight accompanied Mrs. Caroline Hardinge to Sundridge, being anxious to see poor Lady Hardinge once more, who was much gratified with again seeing her. On Tuesday last we dined at the Grove with Sir Richd Hardinge; his spirits appeared depressed with the sufferings of Lady Hardinge. Mrs. Caroline Hardinge & her niece went on Saturday to pass a week at Sundridge, we quite miss their society. We congratulate Mrs. West upon the improvement of Fanny Woodgate's health, & rejoice that Sir Astly Cooper has been so successful with his fair Patient. Tuesday week Julia & myself dined at Wilder- nesse & spent a sociable pleasant evening. After tea we had each the honour of playing two rubbers of *short whist* with his lordship; they return to the country again at Easter. Mrs. Charles Petley is quite well; we call'd on her last week. If they can let their house for three months, she wishes to go to Hastings for that period & as early as Easter for the benefit of sea air, Bathing &c. for the children. You have doubtless heard of Mr. Christopher Lipscomb's promotion, (it was quite unsolicited); his Brother at Sevenoaks has undertaken for the present the tuition of Mr. Polhill's sons. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

The next letter contains an account of some negotiations conducted by Mrs. West for hiring some lodgings at Hastings for the Humphrys. The writer, Julia Humphry, continues (from Tonbridge, 15th July, 1824, to Miss Humphry) :—

“ Mr. & Mrs. West &c. started for Hastings at six o'clock Thursday morning; William West, Fanny & Rosetta accompanied them. The little Girls are to remain three weeks when Mrs. James West is to go down with Alicia; Mrs. James West stays a few days or a week and Alicia is to continue with them till they return home. The School affairs are likely to be brought to a conclusion, in consequence of which Mr. Knox has taken a Degree of Doctor in Divinity at Oxford. I was rejoiced to hear that Maryanne finds Riding so beneficial; perhaps when the weather is more temperate she may venture as far at Tunbridge. The *Matrimonial mania* appears to continue; two more weddings are announced. Mr. Henry Streatfeild is to be married to a Mrs. Pepper, a young widow with a large Jointure, & Daughter to Mr. Dorien Maggens, and we understand Miss Emily Saint has accepted the Proposals of Mr. Tom May, and we hear Miss May is engaged to Mr. Cleughs, the late curate of Hadlow. Mr. Henry Streatfeild is anxious to hire a House in the neighbourhood of Chidingstone. It is said Mrs. Pepper has a Jointure of two thousand a year. I hope & trust the Seal Party experienced no ill effects from the tremendous storm of Wednesday night; I considered myself fortunate to be returned from the Postern before the violence of it commenced. Mr. West writes word from Hastings that the damage there, in broken glass alone, amounts to a thousand Pounds. Our friends at Dryhill I believe go to Town this week. My Aunt & myself are to dine with Mrs.

James West to-day, and as the time is nearly arrived for attending Church, I must conclude. . . . Juliana Humphry.

I am just returned from Church and have been gratified by hearing Henry Woodgate, who read Prayers & Preached to a very full congregation. The tones of his voice are very pleasing, and in *my opinion* he reads and preaches with much feeling and good judgement but appears to have a weakness in his Lungs; should his Health be strengthened, he will excel much in his Profession. He is certainly the handsomest young Man I ever saw in the Pulpit. His text was taken from the 58th Psalm, "Verily there is a reward for the righteous; doubtless there is a God that judgeth the earth."

His subsequent history was equally creditable to Julia Humphry's foresight and to Henry Woodgate, who, in an age of learned and eminent divines, proved himself one of the staunchest pillars of the Church.

In August it would seem that Julia and Maryanne journeyed to Hastings to engage lodgings before the arrival of Mrs. Humphry and her eldest daughter, pending which they enjoyed the hospitality of the Wests. There is a long letter on the subject of lodgings, and the rent of those most suited to their requirements amounted to three and a half guineas a week. The lodgings they had procured for Mrs. Caroline Hardinge were rented at five guineas a week. Hastings was a favourite and fashionable resort for the inhabitants of Tonbridge and the neighbourhood, and of those staying there the letter mentions Mrs. Thompson, Peter Nouaille and Dr. Rudge (who had preached several times and was expected to stay a month longer); the James Wests had lately departed.

From a letter of this month we learn that Rosa Woodgate was about to leave her sister Mrs. Knox to make a visit at South Park and Pembury, and then to return to her aunt Mrs. Garthwaite, at Pilmore Hall, Durham. In October Julia was back again at Tonbridge, writing to Miss Humphry at Seal, on their return from Hastings.

"On Friday, the floods having subsided, I walked to the Postern. Mrs. Matthews & some of her grandchildren have been passing ten days there. Mrs. West expects her niece elect, Miss West [who was engaged to William Woodgate] this week for two days, before she leaves this Neighbourhood. Fanny Woodgate still complains of a little Cough; Mr. Morris has recommended her being entirely clothed in fleecy hosiery, which she has adopted. She is looking particularly well, and is in excellent spirits, but is advised to be very careful of her health during the winter. . . . Now there are so many *attractions* at Seal, surely Mr. Hatch will reside more among his Parishioners. You must not omit to drink my Aunt's Health to-morrow, when she will attain her 85th year. I have written this under many interruptions; Willm. West has spent the evening here. . . .

Juliana Humphry."

The following letter, undated, must be attributed to this period. It is addressed from Tonbridge, by Julia:—

"My dear Fanny,

. . . I dined with Mrs. Hardinge on Tuesday; Mrs. MacLeod, Miss Warde, a Scotch lady & Miss Yates formed the Party. Miss Yates is very conversable & pleasing, & in her manner reminded me of our former friend Mrs. Green. I was glad the weather proved so favourable for Mrs. Wm. Humphry & her little companions; give my love to Richard & tell him I shall be quite disappointed if I do not hear he is a good Boy. I spent a very sociable day at the Postern on Friday with James & Alicia West; the floods last week have seriously injured Mr. West's crops of grass. Mr. & Mrs. West are going to Hastings next week to take Lodgings; Miss Gunning leaves them to-morrow. Mr. Knox performed the whole duty here to-day, both morning & afternoon. I imagine Mr. & Mrs. Hardinge are gone to Sundridge. I am going to Drink tea with Mrs. Jas. West, & have written this in great haste since

church. Mr. & Mrs. Millward [of Hastings] were at Church here this morn'g with the Miss Eyles. . . ."

" 5th Novr. 1824. [Tonbridge].

My dear Fanny,

. . . . I had an invitation last Thursday to dine with Mrs. Luxford ; Mr. & Mrs. H. Curteis, Mrs. Maskell & Miss Jemmet were staying in the House. I regretted not being able to accept it but we were engaged to drink tea at the Vicarage to meet Mrs. Flint. To-morrow I am to accompany our friends at the Postern to Penshurst to go over Penshurst Place, after which we are to dine at South Park ; I anticipate much Pleasure from this Excursion. Mr. & Mrs. Carnell have lately been passing a week at Hastings. Little Mary Scoones continues to go on well ; she told her Aunt the happiest day she had passed since she left Hastings was at Mrs. Humphry's, & that she never should forget the many entertaining stories told her by Miss Maryanne. Anna Woodgate is full of engagements, & had scarcely time to call on Mrs. Carnell. Hastings is full of Company & nearly every Lodging is occupied. I am sure my Mother will be concerned to hear of the death of her old friend Mr. Henry Bishop ; he died last week after a short illness. . . . Juliana Humphry."

" Sunday, Nov. 16th, 1824.

My dearest Mother,

. . . . James West drank tea with us on Monday. He mentioned having met Mr. Hatch, & I am anxious to hear your's and my sisters account of your new neighbour. I understand his manner is not *particularly* graceful. I spent a pleasant day at South Park yesterday sennight & was much gratified by going over Penshurst Place ; many of the finest pictures have recently been cleaned and a good portrait in crayons of Mr. P. Sydney lately arrived from Town. Miss Sydney is still in France. Mrs. West purposes spending a few days at Greatness in the course of ten days or a fortnight & has kindly promised me a conveyance of which I shall most gladly avail myself. She devotes one day for visiting Mrs. Streatfeild at Charts Edge, and another for seeing her Seal Friends. Miss Ward leaves Mrs. West at Xmas ; she has had several applications & is in treaty for a situation with a Lady in Hertfordshire. . . . I imagine James informed you that Mrs. Jas. West has engaged a Governess ; she is not an accomplished woman, but has an excellent Recommendation from the Lady she has just quitted. I was glad to hear a few days ago that a Gentleman was in treaty & likely to engage Spring Grove. I called at Penshurst with Mrs. West on Tuesday ; Mrs. Springet and three of her children are staying at the Postern. I am to drink tea with Mrs. Knox on Tuesday, and as it is a formal Invitation imagine their usual rout will then take place. Miss Callender is staying at Fairlawn ; Mrs. Yates is recovering from her late illness. . . . Mr. Francis [Woodgate] has just been here & mentioned the report of an unpleasant Robbery at Fawke, which if correct must have distressed poor Mrs. Thompson exceedingly. . . . Juliana Humphry."

" Monday Morning, 8 December [1824]

My dear Julia,

. . . . Mr. & Mrs. S. Woodgate with their family took leave of the Grove on Friday, leaving Jane behind for a week or ten days to profit by the instructions of Mr. Gibbon. I dined at the Grove (en famille) Wednesday ; the day previous they had spent at Fairlawn. They appeared much gratified with their day & the blind Miss Yates presented Mrs. Hardinge with a beautiful silver purse, a most extraordinary production to be accomplished by anyone labouring under the severe affliction she experiences. Your account of Mr. Hatch solved the mystery of his not residing at Seal ; every one laments that a young man so highly gifted by nature & so much admired in the Church should by early imprudence have placed himself in so embarrassing & painful a situation. Miss Burton paid us a visit on Thursday ; that morning she had heard from Lady Burton particulars of the devastation occasioned at Hastings by the late storm, an account of which has doubtless reached

you from Sir W. Ashburnham. I forgot to mention when speaking of our friends at the Grove that Caroline is going to day to Maidstone for a week, when Fanny Papillon is to supply her place, after which she goes with her Aunt to Town to stay with Sir Richard till the day before Xmas day. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

" Tunbridge, Decr. 19th, 1824.

My dear Fanny,

Sir William Ashburnham & his two nephews left Dryhill yesterday for Bromham ; they went down in the new carriage which came from Town the eveng before & is very handsome. Sir William was fully engaged during his stay. He called on all his Friends & Relations in this Neighbourhood & on Wednesday James drove him to Pembury in his way to the Wells. Stephen was not at home but Mrs. Stephen received him & introduced him to the whole of her Family, her elder sons being just arrived from School. I know you will be glad to hear that the Skinners have empowered Dr. Knox to elect James West to an Exhibition, therefore his going to college is now decided on. Dr. Knox has behaved in the handsomest and most friendly manner on the occasion. I spent a pleasant Eveng with Mr. & Mrs. Knox on Tuesday ; Mr. & Mrs. Hardinge, Miss Callendar, Sir William & his Nephew & a small Party dined there. A party of two & twenty assembled at the Postern on Thursday Eveng ; the company were amused with cards, dancing and musick which was kept up with much spirit till twelve o'clock. Mr. & Mrs. West & Fanny did all in their power to entertain their Guests & it was a very lively pleasant meeting. My Aunt was much obliged to my Mother for some nice sausages which reached her by Penfold on Wednesday. Mr. Luxford's sale went off extremely well & the Furniture in general sold at an high price. I attended with a Party on Wednesday but the Ladies found it so little entertaining that we did not stay more than half an hour. James & William West are to spend a fortnight or three weeks at Broomham, & Sir William is to pass a few days again with his sister either the middle or end of next month. Miss Harvey called on Maryanne Tuesday while we were at Dry hill. . . . Juliana Humphry."

This exhibition to which James John West was elected was worth £100 a year for four years ; it was one of the new Judd Exhibitions, and James West was the first holder of it. He also obtained a scholarship at Jesus College, Cambridge, to which place he went in 1825.

" Seal, Febry. 16th, 1825.

My dear Julia,

. . . The Weather was so fine last week that my Mother was induced on Thursday to make a few Morning visits. We called at Knole, Ly. Aboyne's & Fairlawn. The Duchess was not at home which was quite a disappointment, as we hoped to have been favoured with a sight of her Orangery. Ly. Aboyne received us most graciously, & told my Mother she had been meditating whether she might take the *liberty* of first calling on her. You will be surprized to see how pretty she is making her Place ; a new approach to the House through the Hop Garden is a great improvement. We were unfortunate in not finding any of the family at Fairlawn at home ; Mrs. Yeates with Miss Peel & Miss E. Yeates returned the visit on Monday & expressed much regret that they did not see us. I fear we shall soon lose Mr. Hatch ; Mr. Whitehead a short time since intimated that he should be happy to enter into a permanent engagement, provided he would reside more here. To this he assented ; however when he next came to Seal he proposed to Mr. W. an exchange with his brother Charles, who he said would be very glad to take the Curacy & reside (with one of his sisters) in Mr. W's. house. Although we have heard so high a character of this young Man, we cannot repress a feeling of regret at parting with our comparatively old friend ; he performs the Sunday service so well that he will be a great loss in the Church which is always well attended, & the unfortunate *predicament* in which he is placed appears to create *additional* interest

among his *female* parishioners. Mr. W. said he made no disclosure to him, but appeared a good deal agitated when he communicated the Proposal. My Mother has engaged a brother of Robert's to supply his place ; he is rather young for the situation, but Robert gives so favourable a report of his steadiness & good conduct & appears so confident he will suit that we are induced to try him. . . . We have had several evening visits since I last wrote among our little circle. Miss Warde spent two days last week at the Grove & afterwards went to Wilderness for the same period. She called one morning with Caroline and we thought her very agreeable. Tell James with my love that I am happy to hear he is pursuing his studies with so much avidity, from which there is no doubt he will hereafter derive much advantage. Mrs. Nouaille is just arrived for Church, I must therefore conclude, &c. . . . Frances Humphry.

Sir Thomas Lennard's eldest son is about to form a second matrimonial engagement with Miss Sheddon, a young Lady of good fortune, I believe an only daughter of Sir Robert Sheddon."

The following letter, undated, must be attributed to this period.

" My dear Julia,

. . . Anna Woodgate is staying at Greatness ; she dined here Monday with Anne Nouaille. Altho' she has so many kind friends at Hastings, she tells us she has left it as a residence, finding it too relaxing a situation for her health. It is not at present decided where she is to fix her future abode. You will see her soon as she goes to her sister Mrs. Knox to-morrow. The only Hastings news she imparted is that Mr. Frederick North is engaged to be married to Mrs. Shuttleworth, a handsome agreeable young Widow of about 30 with one little girl. This lady has a jointure of £3,000 a year, half of which she relinquishes on a second marriage. I was quite sorry to hear this intelligence, as you know we *had set our minds* on his being our *future cousin*.

Mrs. Hardinge told my Mother on Sunday that Sir Richard's intended match is at an end, I believe in consequence of some difficulty respecting settlements. As the gentleman appears disposed to marry again, perhaps he is not likely to form a more desirable connexion. I will thank you not to mention this till you hear it from other quarters. Miss E. Yeates (with her cousin, a Miss Burton) favoured us with a second visit last week and was very conversable and agreeable. Anne Nouaille is looking forward with the greatest delight to the Ball ; our young friends are so desirous for us to be present that I have promised to comply with their wishes. Maryanne is a little doubtful but I think she will also be there ; and it would afford us the utmost pleasure to meet you in the ball room. Should you however not feel disposed to add to the number of Belles, if you do not think the request *too unreasonable*, perhaps you would again favour me with the loan of yr wreath, & I wd return it by Mrs. West the following day, but believe me I had much rather see it ornament *yr head* on that evening than my own.

We saw a good deal of Mr. H. Thursby during his stay at the Grove ; he is remarkably well informed and good humoured, but has a good deal of singularity in his appearance & manner for a young man that has lived so much in the world. He assisted Mr. Hatch twice in the Duty ; he read very agreeably but his voice is not sufficiently powerful for our Church. Mr. & Mrs. Petley & Mr. & Mrs. Lipscomb have lately favoured us with morning visits. It is *whispered* that you are to have a dance at Mrs. F. Woodgate's in the course of Easter week. Caroline Hardinge goes to Lady Geary Wednesday for the Maidstone Ball & stays at Oxenhoath the remainder of the week. I hope you was not the worse for yr walk to the Miss Eyles's ; we feared it might be a little too much for you. . . .

Frances Humphry."

“ Tonbridge, March 8th, 1825.

My dear Fanny,

Mr. James West and James went to Meopham last Sunday to spend the day with Mr. John Thompson & returned the following morning. You will be glad to hear that James is entered at Jesus Colledge Cambridge. He is much pleased with this arrangement and as his destination is finally fixed, it will I hope have the effect of steadying his mind & inducing more regular habits of application. I imagine you have heard the particulars of the Tunbridge Ball from Anne Nouaille. The Stewards obtained great applause; yr absence was much regretted by all your Friends & Maryanne was considered a great loss among the Belles. It passed off so well that I believe it will be the prelude to regular Balls being established here. Between ourselves I think it would have been as well had this been deferred till Easter, as being a more proper season for indulging in musical gaieties. I have now another gay meeting to relate to you. Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Scoones gave their first Party last Monday: the Invitations were very numerous & nearly fifty persons attended and most of the Leigh neighbourhood, & Mr. & Mrs. ———. Mr. Scoones' office was appropriated for dancing, after which the Company partook of a most elegant supper. I assure you I have not for a long time passed a pleasanter Evening. Capt. Scoones is a *great favorite* with the young Ladies & indeed the universal politeness and attention of his manners in my opinion renders him very deservedly so. He leaves this winter in a very short time for America. Mr. & Mrs. Scoones sent an invitation to the Miss Humphry's, but as you declined coming to the Ball I did not forward it to Seal. Mrs. Hardinge & Miss Callender in consequence of the recent death of Mrs. Flint have declined attending these meetings. How do Sir Richd. Hardinge's Family approve of the *matrimonial step* he is about to take? Perhaps if he must form a second connexion of this nature it is more suitable than a younger lady. Mr. Wilgress told me that Sir Richard had announced this event to the Duchess of Dorset, and mentioned that Mrs. Shepherd has a jointure of three thousand a year, half of which she relinquishes by a second marriage, therefore she will pay a high price for her title. Was not you surprized to hear of Mrs. Woodgate's attending the Ball? She was likewise at Mrs. Scoones' but appeared to be in a fitter state to have been in Bed. We had a visit on Sunday from Miss Eyles & her niece; they are just returned from Brighton where they have been passing six weeks. Miss Louisa was staying in Surrey with Mr. & Mrs. Benson. . . . Mr. & Mrs. West & Fanny went to Town on Tuesday, they purpose returning before Easter; as Fanny's health has not been quite regular of late, Mrs. West intends taking her to Mr. Clarke for the benefit of his advice. James West has taken his Horse into the stable, and as it will soon be in riding order he intends taking an early opportunity of paying a visit to his friends at Seal. My Aunt has received a small piece of wedding cake from Capt. & Mrs. J. Woodgate.

Juliana Humphry.

I have just received your kind note for which accept my best thanks. . . You may recollect that Mrs. Shepherd had some years ago the Manor House at Sevenoaks for a few months, & I believe Caroline Hardinge has been in the habit of attending Balls at her House in Town. Her age is said to be nearly fifty and that she is a fashionable handsome woman for her time of life.”

The next letter, by Julia Humphry, tho' undated, must have been written in April, the month that she received proposals of marriage from Sir William Ashburnham.

“ My dear Fanny,

Sir William Ashburnham went to Town last Tuesday. We saw him frequently during his stay. He remains in town for a fortnight; you will frequently see his name in the Paper as he purposes attending several Public meetings. He proceeds to Ditchling to visit his Brother Denny & on his return is to pass a few days with his sister, if he does not before that time take his departure for Brighton.

Sir Willm has made his niece Alicia a present of two beautiful diamond Rings. The diamonds belonged to his Aunt Margaret ; they are beautifully set & I imagine *form a part* of Miss Ailing's *rejected presents*. The Baronet made many enquiries after his Seal friends & requested me to convey to them his very kindest Respects. I hear Anna Woodgate is gone to South Park, I have not seen her since you left Tunbridge. Nothing further has transpired with respect to Mrs. Knox's Party. The Skinners' day is fixed for the 17th of May, on which day I think it not unlikely that it may take place, when I hope *one at least* of my *fair sisters* will make it convenient to attend. Captn. & Mrs. Streatfeild came to Tunbridge last Tuesday and returned the following day ; unfortunately poor Mrs. Francis [Woodgate] was so unwell as to be confined to her Room, and could have no enjoyment from their Society. They favoured us with a sociable visit and Anne was enjoying good Spirits. We had also a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Petley the beginning of the week. . . . The post this morning brought me a long and entertaining letter from Fanny Woodgate; she has not partaken of any gayety since she has been in Town, her time being entirely engaged with Masters. She has *one* for Musick, Dancing, *Drawing*, and *Perspective*, but hopes to be rewarded for her Industry before she leaves the Metropolis by partaking some of the public amusements. She desires her kindest love to her Aunt Humphry & cousins at Seal. We hear from Sir Willm. that sixty new Houses are to be begun this Spring at Hastings near the White Rock ; his brother George has agreed for a Piece of Ground, adjoining Mr. Camack's, for which he is to give the enormous price of eight hundred pounds, & purposes erecting another House. The rumour of Mr. F. North's intended marriage with Mrs. Shuttleworth is confirmed ; Captn. Streatfeild is well acquainted with her & describes her at a fascinating woman in Appearance & manner, but her age cannot be less than five & thirty. . . . Mr. Hardinge has been confined with a bad cold, & in consequence of the Indisposition of the other clergymen Dr. Knox has performed the whole Duty for the last Sunday, & altho the cause is to be regretted his Discourses are so excellent & his delivery so impressive that it has been a great gratification to all the congregation.

Juliana Humphry."

In April a great event took place in the Humphry family. It is referred to in the following note :—

" Saturday Eveng.

My dear Fanny,

A circumstance has occurred this Morning which makes me very anxious to see my dear Mother, & having no other way for accomplishing it, I have engaged the Fly to convey me to Seal to-morrow ; I purpose starting from Tunbridge at nine o'clock & hope to reach Seal between ten and eleven, and now give you a line to apprise you of my Intention, that yourself and Maryanne may not go to Kempsing Church, as I wish for an opportunity without the *Interruption of visitors* of talking over an affair of *considerable Importance*. Do not be alarmed as I trust it will not be of an unpleasant nature, but I shall reserve all further communication on the subject till we meet. I received dr. Maryanne's note this morning & am concerned to find the expectation of *complaisant visitors* will prevent us the Pleasure of seeing her at Tunbridge next week. If not very Inconvenient perhaps you would return with me to-morrow for a few days, being much in need of your *judicious advice* at this time. I must now bid you adieu for this Evening, & with our kind love to the Seal circle, Believe me, dr. Fanny, yr truly affectionate

Juliana Humphry.

My Aunt has been reading my Note. She says I have not sufficiently explained the object of my visit, and desires me to add there is not the smallest cause for alarm."

The nature of this matter is explained by the following note to Sir William Ashburnham at Broomham :—

“ Dry Hill Lodge, April 30th, 1825.

My dear Brother,

As I consider it *cruel* to keep any person in suspense, & more particularly a *Lover*, I hasten to inform you that my dear Julia called here about an hour after you left us, & I presented your letter into the fair hands of the object of your affections, & I have the satisfaction to say she appeared to receive it most cordially, which I consider as a most favourable omen to you. I cannot say when you will receive her answer but I imagine as soon as she has heard from Mrs. Humphry. As I find myself rather feeble this evening I must now conclude with most ardently wishing you every success & happiness in the prospect before you. I remain, my dear Brother, most affectionately yours,

Alicia West.”

An offer from a man of such admirable parts and unexceptionable circumstances could not be refused, but for further particulars of this affair the reader is referred to p. 86. Julia Humphry's next letter to her sisters is dated the 13th May :—

“ . . . Sir William Ashburnham returned from Town yesterday & spent the Evening with us last night when he communicated to me his Intentions with respect to his Future Establishment. He has at present only two Female Servants, which he considers will be very insufficient for the size of his House, and therefore intends engaging two more ; *one*, as he kindly expressed, to wait upon me and to take some part in the Household work, the other as Housemaid. I hinted to him from the manner in which I had been brought up that little attendance on me would be necessary, but he appeared to think from his station in society an Establishment of two Men and four Female servants was indispensable, and therefore wishes me to engage two Domesticks from the Neighbourhood of Seal. He mentioned that Mrs. Homes had been in his Family for twenty seven years, and unless it was my particular request should feel much regret at parting with her. The dairy maid he also wishes to retain. I am sure I never can be sufficiently grateful for the kindness, liberality, & Feeling he evinces, and the manner in which he consults my future comfort. It is my Intention to return home *by the Fly* on Thursday Morning. Sir William goes to Broomham to day to meet a Gentleman who is surveying his Estate, now on Sale ; he comes to Tunbridge again on Tuesday to be present at the Skinners' Meeting and intends himself the pleasure of dining with my Mother on Thursday. He is obliged to be in Town on Friday morning & therefore purposes sleeping at the Crown, Sevenoaks, to be in readiness to start by the first coach. I have entered into these Particulars that my dear Mother and yourselves may have an opportunity of considering the subject, as Sir Willm wishes it to be finally arranged on Thursday, but I must request you not to mention it again till after our meeting. Mrs. Knox called yesterday to offer her congratulations & to invite us to drink Tea with her on Tuesday, which I have accepted for Maryanne & myself, & shall be greatly disappointed if she is prevented coming to Tunbridge on that day. Alicia West is also to accompany us. The Gentlemen dine after the *Recitations* at the School & therefore Mrs. Knox was doubtful whether they wd join the Party, but at all events M.A. had better bring an Evening Dress. My Aunt & myself spent the Morning with Mrs. Jas. West on Wednesday. Mrs. Bailey has also called to offer her good Wishes & said she cd wish me no greater Happiness in the union than what she experienced with Mr. Bailey. Mr. and Mrs. Hardinge & Miss Callender are gone to town for ten days to meet Mrs. Callender. I had a most kind note from Mrs. Hardinge before her departure, and a gratifying letter from Mrs. Lipscomb reached me this morning. Although I am looking forward to the prospect of Future Life, yet I really feel much regret at leaving Tunbridge, more especially on quitting my Aunt, from whom for so many years I have experienced such uninterrupted kindness.

I have just received your kind note by Mrs. S. Woodgate. I am to dine with Mrs. F. Woodgate to morrow (en Famille) when I will make the request to Mr. F. Woodgate, & should feel grateful to Peter Nouaille if he will allow his name to be

made use of as the other Trustee. The Perusal of my Brother's Letter has completed my Happiness & I shall have much Pleasure in making him a visit. Would it be proper for me to write to him or Mrs. Wm. Humphry? Will you have the goodness to inform me by Penfold at what hour Mrs. Nouaille's Party will be at Tunbridge on Tuesday next." . . .

The following letter is undated, but must have been written about the same time :—

" Seal, Monday Morning.

My dear Julia,

Among the various occupations consequent to a late Event, I must not omit to address a few lines to one the most deeply interested in the present proceedings. Sir Wm. Ashburnham's visit to Seal was productive of the utmost satisfaction. Altho' I know to you it is a consideration of comparatively trifling importance, yet we think it right you should be acquainted with the extent of his liberality. Sir Wm. adheres to his first proposal, & thinks that 500 pr. annum is as little as his widow ought to possess as a jointure, & much regrets he cannot make it more. He also *particularly* requests that the Interest of the fortune you will inherit from our dear departed Father may after his decease & my dear Mother's augment the amount of your jointure; and adds " that you are satisfied with this settlement evinces that moderation which is only one among your numerous good qualities." My Mother told him how much she regretted she could not do more at present than add 500 to the same sum you at present possess, & even this trifling addition he was very unwilling for her to relinquish. How happy are you, my dear Julia, to possess the affections of a man of such exalted worth & liberal sentiments; & how proud shall I feel to style him Brother. I can only say I *hope* (and believe I may add with confidence that I *think*) you will not prove undeserving of such an inestimable treasure.

I wrote to Sir Wm. yesterday to state that in consequence of our long acquaintance with Mr. Scoones and his family, we thought it would be agreeable to your wishes that he should act as yr professional Agent on the present occasion; & at the request of *the said* Sir Wm., I am to write to Mr. Scoones on the subject in the name of my Mother by this night's post. My uncle Henry [Woodgate] who was here yesterday thinks a more proper person could not have been fixed on to make yr marriage settlement; he likewise said he believed only one Trustee was necessary on your part, & that he could answer for his son's being happy to act on the occasion. My Mother wrote to my Uncle on Saturday & he lost no time in coming over to offer his congratulations; he expressed the most heartfelt pleasure & was so much affected as to shed tears. As the Post does not go up on a Saturday my Mother could not inform my Brother till last Night, & we sincerely hope he will partake the feelings of his family on the occasion. You could not fail to have been gratified at the pleasure expressed by all your friends to whom this Event has been announced. Mrs. Nouaille and all her family were profuse in their good wishes, Mrs. Hardinge & Caroline delighted; Mrs. Hardinge said she loved us all as her children & hopes Sir Wm., on whom she passed the highest encomiums, will allow her to consider him as belonging to her family. Indeed my paper would be filled were I to relate the kind expressions used by all your friends on the occasion. . . . Frances Humphry."

Julia Humphry's fortune in possession consisted of £500 in the Three Per Cents under the will of her father, besides which she was entitled under the same will on the decease of her mother to one-third of her father's real estate and one-third of her father's residuary personal estate; and was also entitled to some property under her parents' marriage settlement and certain contingent interests under the wills of her Aunts Ann and Sarah Woodgate. To this Mrs. Humphry added £500, and the whole seems to have been settled upon her on her marriage. She subsequently derived some benefit under her mother's will. There is in existence a letter from William Scoones referring to the settlement :—

“ Tonbridge, 6th July, 1825.

Dear Miss Humphry,

To the disappointment which the parties may have felt in the alteration of the day for executing the deeds I must add my own, as it prevents me the pleasure I had anticipated in a visit to Seal on this occasion. My Brother has undertaken to attend to the business and takes with him the Deed between yourself and your Sisters for making the share of each in the property a *vested interest* which I have examined. With every good wish for the happiness of your sister & Sir W. Ashburnham, I remain, Dear Madam, your faithful & obedt. Servant,

Willm. Scoones.”

This Deed was necessary to make vested Julia Humphry's reversionary interest under her father's will, which was liable to be defeated upon her death without issue in Mrs. Humphry's lifetime. This agreement also comprised the contingent legacies of £800 and £900 under the wills of Ann and Sarah Woodgate. Mr. Scoones' brother was John Scoones, and the firm was conducted under the style of W. and J. Scoones. The crest used by this family was a griffin's head. The settlement of the Broomham property, on the part of Sir William Ashburnham, is sufficiently mentioned on p. 87.

The next communication is from Maryanne Humphry, addressed to Julia at Tonbridge :—

“ Wednesday Mornng.

Altho', my dear Julia, your mind is doubtless much occupied at this time, yet a few lines from Seal will, I trust, not prove unacceptable. It is really very gratifying to reflect how much all your friends appear to participate in your present happiness, & the heartfelt pleasure they all express in your approaching Union with so excellent & esteemed a man as Sir William Ashburnham. Mr. John Thompson paid us a visit yesterday morning ; he requested if there was a vacant niche in our letter when we wrote to you “ to present *his very best wishes* & to assure Miss Julia that her happiness would not be forgotten in his prayers.” Fanny has received a letter from Mr. W. Scoones this morning in reply to one addressed to him on Monday ; he appears much gratified with the confidence you have placed in him on this occasion & desires her to make you his best acknowledgments.

We received a long letter from Mrs. W. Humphry yesterday evidently written before my Mother's communication had reached them, containing a very kind & urgent request from both my Brother & herself for my Mother and two of us to make them a visit, either the end of this month or the beginning of the next. My Brother is now at Hampstead for the benefit of the air before he returns to the office & some of the family are with him ; the change has already proved beneficial & he preferred this place to pass a week or two as much more convenient than coming to Seal, from its near vicinity to his office. Our friends at the Grove, including Mrs. Allnutt & Mr. Whitehead, drank tea with us last night ; at the request of our Mother I communicated to this latter Gentleman on Sunday the change about to take place in your situation. He wished you joy on the occasion & was happy to hear of an event that gave satisfaction to Mrs. Humphry & her family. I should like much, my dear Julia, to come & see my Aunt & you on Tuesday with Mrs. Nouaille, but am not sure but their carriage may be filled on that day, as Philip does not go to Town till next week. . . . Maryanne Humphry.”

The wedding was at Seal on the 7th July, and the Rev. John Ashburnham performed the service. Henry Woodgate, Mary Anne and Frances Humphry, and Alicia Amy West (one of the bridesmaids) signed the register. A letter from Mrs. James West, written two days before the event, gives some idea of the kind of dresses that were worn on such occasions :—

My dear Julia,

“ Dry Hill Lodge, July 5th, 1825.

You would have heard from Alicia on Monday according to promise had my

dress &c., arrived from Town, but Miss Attree could not get my order completed to send till last evening. I am happy to add she has executed them entirely to my approbation & *above all* to my Brother's taste. My Lace Dress is made with full top resembling a French one and long sleeves ; she has sent me the same sort of feather in my Bonnet as yours. This was not my order as I left everything to her taste, you must therefore *not be angry* at my having the same plumes as yourself. Miss Attree has sent me a mob Cap to wear with my Bonnet, & as I thought you wou'd like to know the shape I have enclosed you a paper pattern. I perceive Miss Attree's taste & my own accord, as she has put a blond lace on my cap instead of a quilling. I have the pleasure to tell you my Brother of all things admires your *Bridesmaid's* attire. . . . Alicia West."

A detailed account of the reception at Broomham of the bride and bridegroom is to be found on p. 88 under " Ashburnham."

" Seal, July 19th, 1825.

My dear Julia,

. . . Our Seal Festivity's did not end with your Nuptial Day, for on Thursday last Mrs. Hardinge invited a large Party in honour of the occasion, & after dinner the Health of Sir William & Lady Ashburnham was drank with much pleasure by all the Company present. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Woodgate were spending a day or two at the Grove & likewise Miss Papillon & Miss Cook (who is daughter of the Professor of that name). This Lady entertained the company with several sweet and pleasing airs, after which a quadrille followed, to the no small satisfaction of the younger part of the Guests that were assembled. Mrs. James West spent the morning here on Thursday & kindly left Alicia with us ; she appears very happy & we find her so agreeable an inmate that we shall be quite sorry when the day arrives to part with her. As Sir William informed my Mother you intended going to Church on Sunday, you have probably before this received visitors. All the families we visit in the neighbourhood have called, gentlemen as well as ladies. I am sure you must find the House at Brome Ham delightful during this sultry weather ; we have been quite banished from the Drawing room during the last week, but our Book room is cool & pleasant. Anne Nouaille passed the evening here yesterday. There was a cricket match on the Vine Saturday between the Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Gentlemen, when the latter were victorious, & I understand our friend James did not exult a little that his party gained the Palm of Victory. We hear Lady Caroline Pratt is to be married this week, & the ceremony to be performed at St. George's Church, Hanover Sqre. Sir Thomas Lawrence is now painting a portrait of the Bride elect. We were glad to hear the plants arrived in safety ; the carrier Waters quite entertained us with the account of his journey & he seemed much elated with the kindness & good cheer he received at Brome Ham. I hope *for the credit of Seal* that the *Damsels* you took from here will turn out well. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

On 1st September Miss Humphry paid a visit to Broomham, and Maryanne was left alone with her Mother. We have a letter from her to Rose Woodgate :—

" Seal, Wednesday Morning, Sep. 8th, 1825.

My dear Aunt,

My Brother & his eldest son have been with us since Thursday sennight ; the former appears already benefited by his native air, & can now walk for two miles without much apparent fatigue. Our nephew William is a remarkably good Boy & so tractable & accomodating that I shall be quite sorry when the time comes for him to quit Seal. . . . Mr. Harenc of Sevenoaks has been dangerously ill & attended by two Physicians ; he is a little better & pronounced out of danger. The morning preceding the departure of Mrs. Hardinge for Hastings she received a letter to announce the death of Lady Jane James, sister to Lord Camden, & who I believe had been in declining health for some time. I hope Mrs. Francis Woodgate continues tolerably well, remember us kindly to her when you next see Mr. Francis. I hear

Mr. Simpson has left Tunbridge, & is succeeded by a Mr. Powell. Mrs. Nouaille has received favours & wedding cake from Mr. Edward Rudge who was lately married at Marybone Church [to Miss Van Notten-Pole]; he with his bride are gone to pass the next year at Florence & Pisa. Mr. & Mrs. Willm. Woodgate intend to visit several of their relatives as soon as they return from the Isle of Wight. . . ."

In November Maryanne paid her sister a visit at Broomham. Miss Humphry writes :—

" Seal, Nov. 9th, 1825.

My dear Julia,

. . . " Mr. Warton, the gentleman that succeeds Mr. Hatch as curate here, is much approved; he has not the naturally fine voice of Mr. Hatch but he reads with great feeling & has given us two beautiful & impressive sermons. Mrs. Hardinge & Caroline have just been sitting an hour with us. They expect Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Woodgate & their four youngest children to day to pass a fortnight with them. We met Sir Henry & Lady Emily Hardinge at the Grove one evening before they left the Neighbourhood; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hardinge succeeded them & are now staying with Sir Richard at Sundridge. . . ."

" Seal, 25th Decr., 1825.

My dear Julia,

. . . The New Year's Ball is certainly to take place, altho' the *splendour* must be much dimin'shed. It is expected to be well attended, & I am sure the presence of Sir Wm. & Ly Ashburnham will afford much gratification to all their friends. Miss Burton's party I believe is not to take place till after next week. Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille hope to be favoured with yr company at dinner Wednesday the 4th inst. . . . You have probably heard from Mrs. West that Mrs. Rudge is become a *Grand-mamma*; Mrs. Pole was confined about ten days ago with a fine little girl. Mrs. Hardinge is again deprived of the use of her horses by illness, which prevented my Mother attending the Book-meeting, as Mrs. Nouaille could not accomodate us both and she did not feel equal to go without a *supporting arm*; I therefore represented her & met a very pleasant & more numerous party than usual. Poor Mrs. Harenc who was a little recovering her spirits received a severe shock a few days ago in hearing of the sudden death of her father, who was Found dead in his bed without any previous illness. . . ."

After the visit to Seal, Sir William and Lady Ashburnham passed some time with their Aunt Rose Woodgate at Tonbridge. The next letter mentions an interview with a cook, who had offered herself to Lady Ashburnham; her terms were twelve pounds a year with tea and sugar.

" Seal, Jany. 21st, 1826.

My dear Julia,

. . . As the frost is gone we are next week to have a general *Assize*. . . . We have distributed Sir William's and your bounty to our poor Neighbours & they all expressed their grateful thanks, with many good wishes for the Health & Happiness of their kind Benefactors. Caroline Hardinge & Miss Papillon had a most agreeable Ball at Rooks Nest. The accounts from Pembury are favourable; Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Woodgate are in great apprehension for poor little William whose Fever is assuming an alarming aspect. On Wednesday I accompanied our friends at Greatness to see a Museum of Natural Curiosities now exhibiting at Sevenoaks, with which (never having witnessed the British or Liverpool Museums) I was much pleased. Lady Georgiana Pratt made us a sociable visit a few days ago. Mrs. Cade called this morning & regretted much she has not had an opportunity of seeing you since yr marriage. . . . Frances Humphry."

Miss Humphry was at Tonbridge for the last part of her sister's visit there, and the next letter is addressed to her at that place by Mrs. Humphry.

“ Seal, Feby. 28 [1826.]

My dear Fanny,

I inclose you a five pound note & one Sovereign; whatever more is due I will settle when I have the pleasure of seeing you. As you tell me one line from me affords you great pleasure, I always feel happy to please you, as you have been so good in writing to us for which I cannot praise you too much. I this morning ventured to Church for the first time since your absence; Ld. Camden express'd great pleasure at seeing me out again. Ld. Brecknock was at Church, indeed the whole Family seem in great spirits at the thought of the expected arrival of Lady Caroline. Lady a Boyne writes such pleasant letters to Mrs. Hardinge; the wedding is again put off till the 1st of March, I imagine on the indisposition of his Majesty who is to give the bride away. I saw a letter from dear Julia to-day addressed to Mrs. Nouaille; she mentions how successful she has been in administering her Medicines. I was quite miserable when I heard of poor William's illness & am truly thankful to Providence that he is got better. I am very happy to hear both Mr. & Mrs. F. Woodgate are going on so well. I wish you to consult Mr. Francis on the sale of my House &c. I think it will be desirable to sell Godden at once, but this House & the land at Noah's Ark I wish to dispose of subject to my Life in it. I wish him to advise me who he thinks proper to employ on this occasion & what part of the year is most desirable for me to offer it for sale, & beg him not to mention it to any one. I received my writings safe back from Mr. Crow but am not likely to get either Principal or Interest owing to the great scarcity of Money. My kindest love to my Dr. Sister, & with the same to yourself I remain your most affecte. Mother,

Elizabeth Humphry.”

“ Tonbridge, Feby. 7th, 1826.

My dear Julia,

On Sunday, after Church, I called on Mrs. F. Woodgate. Mr. Francis is better & gets out a little to call on his neighbours, which tends to improve his spirits; he last week experienced a return of the spasms in his stomach, for which he is at this time undergoing a course of calomel. Dr. Knox's family received the addition of a little boy last Thursday Evening and I am happy to add Mrs. Knox & the Infant have been & continue to go on in the most favourable manner. You probably saw by the Papers the death of Mr. Manning's youngest daughter; after having so recently been in good health & the enjoyment of Life, what a sad change for her Family. Mr. & Mrs. West & Fanny called on Sunday after Church, but not a syllable transpired respecting the *pending Negotiation*. Mrs. James West walked down last week to call on my Aunt. Alicia is our frequent visitor. Many of my friends have been so obliging to call and leave their cards, but do not come in lest they should fatigue my Aunt; Mrs. Hardinge frequently calls at the door to make personal enquiries. The accounts from Pembury are more favourable & it is hoped the crisis is passed, but the poor little boy is described to be in a very reduced and exhausted state. My Uncle Henry drove down on Sunday after Church & called on my Aunt; he made many enquiries after you & Sir William & desired his best remembrance. I picked up a pocket handf. of yours in the garden of which I shall retain possession till we meet. Mrs. Nouaille & Anne are expected at the Postern to-morrow for one night, & by them I hope to receive some Intelligence from Seal.

The next letter, one from Maryanne Humphry, is subjoined to a note in Mrs. Nouaille's writing, and “ a recipe for the measles ” *; it is addressed to Lady Ashburnham.

“ Seal, February 10th, 1825.

My dear Sister,

The family circle at the Grove has been enlarged by the arrival on Monday of Sir Richd and Genl. & Miss Wolf & I had the pleasure of dining with them on

*See Reference Sheet.

Wednesday. Miss Wolf is not handsome but sensible & pleasing in her manner ; our friend the General seems to dote upon his daughter & delighted with the opportunity of introducing her to the ladies at the Grove. Have the goodness to inform Sir Willm Ashburnham that Mrs. Hardinge has purchased Mr. Yates' horses for an hundred pounds. They are of a grey colour ; one is a perfectly sound horse & the other from some defect in breathing is termed a *warer* which is the reason Mr. Yates parts with them. On this account perhaps they might not be desirable for the Roads around Broomham. Lord & Ly. Camden returned from Town on Wednesday with Ld. Brecknock ; altho' greatly recovered from the effects of his accident he still walks very lame. Mr. Smith the architect spent two or three days in examining the roof of the Church & does not think it in so dangerous a state as was apprehended ; he says it may be repaired for four or five hundred pounds, and as under Ld. Camden's directions no unnecessary expense is to be incurred such as new pewing it &c the whole may be completed in three weeks. He recommends a person from Town to superintend the Country workmen. Lady Aboyne & her Daughter went to Town on Monday to attend the wedding of Ld. Strathaven ; the ceremony is to take place in a few days in a small chapel in the lodge at Windsor, & as his Majesty has signified his intention of giving the Bride away, the party invited is to be very select. The Bride & Bridegroom are to reside at present in a house of Lady Aboyne's situated (I think) in Huntingdonshire. Lady Elizabeth is said to have a fortune of sixty thousand pounds. Have you heard of John Woodgate's good fortune? He is promoted to a Major's rank on the staff in India with the pay of 800 per annum. Mrs. Thomas writes word he is much beloved & respected by all that know him, William Woodgate is so much better that Dr. Mayo has taken his leave for near a week. Poor Miss H. Manning's decease was very sudden. She had fainting fits of so alarming a nature that Mr. Kelson who was dining at Coombank on the day she expired apprized her family that medical aid was of no avail. She is said to have been so amiable a Girl that her loss is much lamented ; her complaint was some internal adhesion which obstructed her digestive powers, & her family are consoled by thinking that had she lived she never could have enjoyed good health. . . . Our friends at Greatness lately spent a few days with Mrs. Rudge, when Anne presented Mrs. Pole with a beautiful lace cap (her own work) intended for little Anna Matilda. . . ."

There is a letter of the same date from Miss Humphry, but it is of small consequence. She writes " You are not very strong, therefore take care of yourself, my dear Julia, for Health is so necessary to the enjoyment of Life that few pleasures can be experienced without this blessing."

Lord Strathavon was the eldest son of the Earl of Aboyne (afterwards Marquis of Huntley) and Lady Aboyne, daughter of Sir Charles Cope, and a sister of the Duchess of Dorset.

" Tonbridge, Tuesday Morning [Feb. 25th, 1826].

My dear Julia.

. . . I am very sorry Sir William has not had better weather for visiting the Metropolis & hope he will experience no increase of Rheumatism in consequence. I am sure you had a very agreeable Companion in my friend William during his absence & have no doubt your *young Protector* took *especial* care of the *charge* commended to his care. Mr. & Mrs. Francis Woodgate have had quite a sick house ; all the younger children & most of the servants have been much indisposed ; little Alfred has had the measles & the rest of the children (that have been ill) all the symptoms of the disorder without the eruption. They were desirous of introducing a new name in the family, & therefore have given their little boy that of Edward. My Aunt received a letter from Mr. Acton a few days ago which contained all imaginable good wishes to you & Sir William. He was disappointed in sending his annual basket of game & intends to substitute *two real Yorkshire Hams* which my

Aunt considers a more acceptable present. Mrs. Moneypenny & her Nieces wished Fanny [Woodgate] to join their party to the Maidstone Ball last Tuesday, which was declined; do not you think this *augurs favourably* for her *absent friend*? I watch the progress of the Peruvian Bonds with much Interest & am happy to see an improvement has taken place within the last few days. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

The Ashburnhams had invested several thousand pounds in the purchase of Peruvian Bonds. The next letter is likewise from Maryanne Humphry.

" Seal, March 14th, 1826.

My dear Julia,

. . . My Mother is very well at this time & on Tuesday accompanied Mrs. Hardinge to Sevenoaks. We called at Mr. Lambard's & found the family at home. They are going to Hastings the end of this week, provided they succeed in obtaining an House in Pelham Place. Poor Mrs. Gurdon has not been so well; she went to Bexhill in an open carriage & caught cold. My Mother is much obliged to Sir William Ashburnham for his kindness in writing to Mr. Palmer. We hope Sir William is no loser by the failure of the bank at Hastings, tho indeed these failures have been so general that few persons I fear connected with them but have suffered temporary inconvenience.

The meeting between Lady Caroline Stuart & her family has been productive of much pleasure to both Parties. When the family left Wildernesse Lady Camden sent us the novel of Granby accompanied with a kind note from Lady Georgiana. We have been amused with the perusal; the fashionable & pernicious effects of gambling are well described. The author is a Mr. Leister & a scene in which he exposes a singular & ingenious trick with dice is much commended; it is even said that he himself discovered the contrivance. Although not acquainted with the parties, some account of Lord Strathaven's marriage may not prove uninteresting. The King notwithstanding his present attack of gout was wheeled in a chair to the Chapel & gave the bride away. She was habited in Brussels lace & her only ornaments a pair of pearl earrings set with diamonds, given her by Ld. Strathaven. Lady Cunningham presented a perfect contrast to her daughter, sparkling with jewels like a *brilliant meteor*. After the ceremony His Majesty saluted the Bride & a dinner was prepared for the party at the lodge at which the King presided, altho he only partook himself of Mutton Broth, & with the permission of Sir Henry Halford (who was present) drank one glass of champagne in honour of the festive occasion. You may recollect hearing that Coll. Ilbert died some time since. He has left a considerable estate in Devonshire to Mrs. Ilbert's eldest son on his attaining the age of twenty four, to Perry the younger son Two hundred a year & three or four thousand pounds to commence his career in life, & to Mrs. Ilbert he has bequeathed the same legacy as to his own Sisters. Mrs. Ilbert has been living at Tiverton & intends to remove her residence to Bath to be near Mrs. Philips, the sister of Mr. Ilbert. Mr. Turton has been dangerously ill with a pleurisy but now is doing well; they are coming to Brasted. Caroline Hardinge . . . sends her kind love, & recommends if you have leisure to work some ottomands to ornament your rooms at Broomham, an amusement quite in fashion just now. I was quite surprised to hear of Mrs. Wynch giving a dance so late in the Hastings season & hope to hear it proves agreeable. . . ."

" Tonbridge, March 15th, 1826.

My dear Julia,

. . . Penfold has just brought me a long letter from Maryanne; she tells me Mr. Warton has taken Godden & is fitting it up for the reception of himself & Pupils at Ladyday. Mrs. Hardinge carried my Mother to call at Fairlawn on Monday; they found the young ladies at home & had a most agreeable visit. I received a letter from Mrs. W. Humphry yesterday morning & am concerned to inform you she does not altogether give so favorable an account of my Brother's Health as could

be wished ; she says he sleeps well & his appetite is generally good, but adds that he has a slight cough, is extremely weak & much reduced. Mr. Paslow thinks him better but he is very low & desponding about himself ; he has not yet quitted the Drawing-room. When the season is more advanced & he is able to get out into the air I trust it will tend to renovate & improve his Health. Dr. Knox is much occupied in the alterations at the School. The offices are all taken down & a new Play-ground is in progress for the Boys. A deputation of the Skinners have been down this week to arrange & settle the plan of proceeding with the Dr. Mr. Francis Woodgate is quite recovered from his illness & Mrs. Woodgate is so well as to intend spending the day at Riverhill to-morrow ; the children are all well. I imagine Sir William & yourself are occupied in the agreeable pursuit of Gardening, & have no doubt my friend William West is willing to render you a little assistance in *your labours*. The genial weather of last week has set everything in motion. I walked to the Postern last Friday & in my cloth Pelisse found the heat quite oppressive. . . . Mrs. F. Woodgate received a letter from Miss Luxford yesterday & I was happy to hear poor little Lydia is quite recovered from her serious illness. I am quite concerned to hear Mr. Wenham has made no provision for his Daughter ; I do think it was most unjustifiable conduct towards her. . . . Frances Humphry."

Miss Humphry took advantage of the West's visit to Greatness to return home in their carriage for a few days. She writes again on her return :—

" Tonbridge, March 31st, 1826.

My dear Julia,

. . . William West returned much pleased with his visit & the kindness he received at Broomham. All his friends think him grown & looking remarkably well. Was not you surprized to hear of Sir Richard Hardinge's union with Miss. Wolf ? It took place at her married sister's at Bath in the most private manner, by special License, about a fortnight ago. The ceremony was performed by her brother Mr. James Wolf. His family cannot be supposed to approve of so disproportionate a union (the Lady being in her 35th year), to some of them it must prove a serious disappointment ; they have however the good sense to make the best of it & hope his happiness may be promoted by the society of a sensible companion & attentive *nurse*. Her talent in this way was soon called into practice, for the poor Bridegroom has been seriously ill with an Inflammation on the chest, in addition to Gout, since his Marriage. Do not you think it an enviable prospect for a young lady on first entering the conjugal state ? . . . The Ball at Sevenoaks was very thin for Easter, the number not amounting to 70. Neither Maryanne or Caroline Hardinge were there. Our friends at Greatness wished me very much to join their party, but as my stay was so short I was unwilling to leave my Mother & Maryanne. I was sorry it was not a better ball as Mr. & Mrs. Camack came from Town to be present. Mrs. Camack shone pre-eminent in all her Diamonds. You know the Sevenoaks people are proverbial for not paying proper attention to strangers ; I fear that was the case in the present instance. Mrs. Camack however had a good deal of dancing & expressed herself much pleased with the Evening. I returned on Wednesday ; Tuesday Caroline Hardinge & James West dined with us, & Mrs. Hardinge & Jane Woodgate joined our circle in the Evening. Caroline tells me in confidence that a matrimonial engagement has taken place between Henry Thursby & his cousin Elizabeth Papillon, with the entire approbation of their respective families. James West is looking remarkably well & in his usual good spirits ; he likes Cambridge better than ever & I hope he is going on well. He considers himself most fortunate in having so clever a man as Mr. Ramsey for a Tutor & says he entertains the highest *veneration* for him. He has been passing a few days with Mr. Thompson & returns to Cambridge the early part of next week. The last accounts of my Brother were rather more favourable. Mr. Paslow says he has several Patients in the same state, & that he cannot expect much improvement in their Health till we have a change of weather. We hear from Mrs. W. Humphry

that our good friend Mr. Baker died possessed of eighty thousand pounds. He left a will & made an equitable distribution of his property. To his nephew Frederick Hemming he bequeathed thirty thousand pounds with all his books & prints. Mrs. Stephen Woodgate is going on well, Mrs. West has promised to take me to call on her next week. . . . Frances Humphry."

The next letter is from Mrs. Humphry.

"Seal, April ye 5th, [1826].

You cannot think, my dear Julia, how much entertainment your letters afford me, and what pleasure it gives me to hear so good an account of Sir William Ashburnham and yourself. I am much pleased to hear you have been engaged in the amusement of Planting, as you know I am a great friend to improvements of that nature. Did you trench the ground before hand, as I am told its expedient for their thriving. The Plantations about us I think flourish very well & I hope yours will do the same. I must now beg your acceptance of a pair of cuffs; they are a trifling memorial but you will recollect they are worked by your Mother in her 76th year. I drank tea at the Grove last night to meet Mrs. & Miss Thursby. They enquired very much after Sir William and yourself, & desired to be kindly remembered. I am sorry I cannot send you a better account of poor William; he continues very much the same. Poor Mrs. Humphry has had a great deal of Nursing this winter, I fervently hope the mild weather will benefit his health. I do not say anything about your coming to see me at present, as I dare say Sr. William will be occupied for some time in directing the alterations in his House; when do you think of begining? I often wish I could transport myself to your fire side to pass a little time with Sir William and yourself. I am tolerably well at present altho' at times I am very feeble & poorly. Mary Ann will write you a much more sprightly letter & tell you all the news."

On the 26th April, Mrs. Humphry's old and valued friend Mrs. Caroline Hardinge died. At the time of her death she was in London with her niece Caroline, and for some time previously had been receiving daily visits from Sir Henry Halford, the King's Physician. The seat of her disorder appears to have been the head, to which leeches and a blister were applied without effect. Her death was a severe loss to the neighbourhood where she had lived for so many years, and especially to the Humphrys. On the 19th Maryanne Humphry writes from Seal:—

. . . Great is the interest evinced here for Mrs. Caroline Hardinge & numerous were the enquiries yesterday from all classes to know if we could afford them information. . . . The preparations for beginning the Church are delayed in consequence of Mr. Smith's indisposition, & this circumstance will probably retard its commencement for a few weeks. Our own bricklayers are to be employed but not the Carpenters. My Mother accompanied Mrs. Nouaille &c. in a drive to St. Clere on Monday, & yesterday Mrs. Evelyn called at the door to enquire if we had any intelligence from Town [of Mrs. Hardinge]. Mrs. Nouaille has sent her never failing remedy for the measles to Fairlawn yesterday, and my Mother took the opportunity of enquiring after the family. Mr. Yates sent word both the young ladies were recovering. . . ."

Maryanne Humphry's letter to Lady Ashburnham, written two days later, conveys much the same intelligence:—

" . . . You have no doubt heard from Tunbridge of the alarming attack of apoplexy with which our esteemed friend Mrs. Caroline Hardinge was seized the day after her arrival in town. Caroline wrote on Monday to impart the sad intelligence. At that time every relief the best medical skill could administer had failed of producing the desired effect & she remained unconscious to all around her. . . . Sir Richard has also been seriously indisposed so that poor Lady Hardinge may indeed be termed a mourning Bride. My Mother feels much for her valued friend and at times is a good deal affected at the deprivation she will experience in her agreeable & improving society. In our present anxiety it affords us great

comfort that my Aunt continues so remarkably well & we rejoice to hear such favourable accounts of James West ; poor Fellow, he has had a serious illness which may ultimately prove advantageous & teach him to be more temperate in his exertions & amusements for the future. We were quite glad to see Alicia West with Fanny to spend a morning here last week ; she tells me it is quite decided for her to take lessons in dancing & looks forward with no small degree of pleasure to her visit at Broomham. . . . How superb was the entertainment you describe at Beauport ; you must almost have fancied yourself in the regions of fairy land. Our paper informed us Sir William was a distinguished advocate at the annual meeting of that benevolent society of the relief of the Deaf & Dumb, & you may be sure we read the account with more than an accustomed interest. My Mother accompanied Mrs. Nouaille in a drive to St. Clere on Monday ; they found Mrs. Evelyn at home & her rooms were gracefully decorated with abundance of floral emblems. It is the first spring for some years she has been well enough to enjoy her Garden. How beautiful is the table Sir William has presented to Fanny ! when filled with flowers it will be the admiration of every one. Lady Aboyne sat half an hour here yesterday ; she has really a most engaging manner & said my Mother was very forgiving to admit her after her apparent inattention in not calling before. She talked of you & recalled the circumstance of Sir William having partaken the amusement of skating with Lady Charlotte. How uncertain are the events of this life ! last week we were looking forward to the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Hardinge & Caroline again & hearing the particulars of a pleasant visit ; the scene is now reversed, & whatever may be the result I hope dear Caroline will be enabled to meet it with the same fortitude & resignation to the Divine will which her revered Aunt would have evinced on a like occasion."

Three days later the news is worse ; a letter of Maryanne Humphry to her sister says :—

" . . . Mrs. Nouaille received a letter yesterday from Mrs. Thursby ; I grieve to state poor Mrs. Caroline was taken considerably worse on Saturday & not expected to survive the day. She does not suffer any pain, which is a consolation. . . . Mrs. W. Humphry wrote to my Mother on Saturday. Our Brother's health improves but his strength does not return as fast as could be wished. He is to take a drive the first *very* fine day in Mr. Paslow's carriage. My Uncle made us a short visit yesterday after Church & wch he said would prove a prelude to a longer one very soon. Neither my Uncle or Aunt approve of losing Mrs. Lipscomb's society for so long a period as a twelve month. I should imagine Mr. Lipscomb will not persist in wishing her to remain for so extended a period in the North. Our Church is to be begun this week. Notice was given yesterday that during the time it is under repair service will be performed at Kempings. . . ."

Mrs. Hardinge died on April 23rd.

" Seal, April 26th, 1826.

My dear Julia,

. . . . Our late letters have I trust prepared you for the melancholy Event I have now to communicate. A great change took place in our dear friend Mrs. Caroline Hardinge on Saturday last, when all hope became extinct, & she closed her valuable life without a struggle on Monday morning at 4 o'clock. Our dear Caroline's health suffered much during the illness of her aunt, but we have the satisfaction to hear from Mrs. Hardinge that she supported the closing scene with more fortitude than could be expected ; she revered her departed Aunt so highly & they lived so happily together that the loss to her must be incalculably great. . . . The Funeral is to take place here on Saturday next ; I never knew any one more lamented, for few possessed so enlightened an understanding and affectionate feeling to all around her. . . . Mrs. Nouaille with her accustomed kindness has visited my Mother every day for some time past. My Brother & Mrs. W. Humphry wish Maryanne to make them a visit, & she thinks of passing a little time with them

a fortnight or three weeks hence. Mrs. Allnutt has seen her friend Emily Sidney, now Mrs. William Wakefield; she was in high spirits at the liberation of her Husband, is reconciled to her Father who consents to allow her four hundred a year, & has been introduced to her sister Mrs. Sidney. During the time the Church is under repair (which commenced on Monday) service is to be performed twice a day every Sunday at Kempsey. The Bishop of Rochester holds a Confirmation at Tonbridge the 12th of May when Alicia West is to be confirmed. We long to know Mr. Rateley's opinion of Broomham & Sir William's decision on the subject. We hear Sir Richard & Lady Hardinge come to Sundridge to-day, but do not know whether dear Caroline accompanies them. . . . Frances Humphry."

The establishment at the Grove was broken up, and the house, which belonged to Lord Camden, was eventually let to Sir Alexander Crichton. Anne Richardson, the cook, was taken into Lady Ashburnham's service at Broomham. Caroline Hardinge's headquarters, from that time, were fixed at Pembury, the home of her sister Mrs. Stephen Woodgate; and we learn from the next letter that she went there in May.

My dear Julia,

"Seal, May 10th, 1826.

. . . I wrote to dear Caroline a few days ago & said everything *I knew* you would wish, for you. When the impression of her grief is softened, & she can visit this neighbourhood without painful emotion, we hope she will pass a little time with us. By her desire my Mother has the Donkey Chaise, & Maryanne & myself are desired to select a memorial of our departed friend. Mr. Stephen Woodgate came to the Grové to make some arrangements on Monday, & afterwards dined with us. He brought me an affectionate letter from Mrs. Stephen; her recovery has been much retarded by the late melancholy Event. . . . The Horses of our departed Friend were sent to Town the beginning of last week & sold for a larger sum than Mrs. Hardinge gave for them. We walked to Sevenoaks Monday to call on Miss Haranc & a few friends, & to-morrow my Mother thinks of making a morning visit at Fairlawn. We hear from Mrs. S. Woodgate that Mrs. Hardinge has mentioned us *all* affectionately in her will; take no notice of this, as we have heard nothing from Sir Henry or Captain Hardinge, who are the Executors. . . . Ld. Camden takes possession of the Grove next week, when she [the cook] *expects* to receive her discharge. When you think a proper time has elapsed, she wishes you to apply to Miss Hardinge for her character, who will be at Pembury after Friday next. . . .

Frances Humphry."

Lady Ashburnham had written to enquire whether the horses were to be sold privately, as her husband was desirous of purchasing them. Mrs. Hardinge's death was followed by an affliction of still nearer concern to the family at Seal. From the next letter it appears that William Humphry's health took an alarming change for the worse during Maryanne's visit. The letter is addressed to Miss Humphry at 14, Charlotte Street, Pimlico.

My dear Fanny,

"Seal, May 21st, 1826.

With what painful feelings I left Charlotte Street yesterday you can well imagine, & how anxious I felt to hear further tidings of my dearest Brother. I would have given any thing this morning to know how he continued the remainder of the day yesterday, & if he passed a more comfortable night. . . . I hope dear Mrs. Humphry continues tolerably well; her unremitting attentions to her dear husband during a long illness will hereafter prove a source of the purest satisfaction whatever may be the dispensation of an all wise Providence. I know she has a kind friend with her, that will partake & endeavour to alleviate her present distressing situation. . . . Mrs. Nouaille has paid my dear Mother every attention, visiting her once and twice a day, & to amuse & relieve her mind has occasionally taken her for a drive in her carriage. Mr. & Mrs. Smith are now at Greatness. Both Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille evince the greatest interest for my Brother & desire their love & best wishes to him & my Sister. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

Maryanne Humphry had found her brother much better on her arrival, and the change was quite unexpected. Lady Ashburnham at this period spent some days at Seal while Sir William was in town, and endeavoured to cheer her Mother by her company. William died on the 26th May, and the fatal news was conveyed to them in a letter of the 27th.

“ My dearest Julia,

I should have written to you yesterday but my dear Brother was so extremely exhausted that we all concluded the term of his existence here was drawing to a close. Towards the Evening he became still more weak & exhausted, & unaccompanied with pain & without a sigh or struggle gently sank into the arms of death at half past eleven o'clock. As there was no prospect of regaining his Health, we cannot be too thankful to a Merciful Providence for removing him with so little suffering to a happier state of existence & the patient resignation he evinced to the Divine Will, during a long illness, I doubt not has proved acceptable in the sight of Heaven.

The first effusion of our poor Sister's grief was most distressing, which the sight of her children this morning again renewed. I have endeavoured to support & comfort her as far as I am able & am happy to add my efforts have not proved unavailing, for her feelings are now become much more tranquil & composed. I grieve to hear dear Maryanne has been so unwell, & fervently hope to receive a better account soon. The melancholy state in which she left my poor Brother was sufficient to unnerve a stronger constitution. I am sure it will afford her & my dearest Mother the utmost consolation to know that his end was so gentle & undisturbed that, altho' I was sitting by him, I was scarcely aware the change had taken place. I hope Sir Willm. has joined you; it is a great comfort you are at Seal as I am sure yr society will greatly alleviate the sorrow of my Mother & Maryanne.

Captn. Hardinge has shewn the kindness & attention of a Brother, calling every day to make enquiries, & offering his services in any way that may be useful. I cannot leave poor Mrs. Humphry in her present distress; in compliance with the wish expressed by her dear departed Husband the funeral is to take place at Seal, I imagine towards the end of next week. I will write again Monday when I shall be able to give you further information. You will be good enough to send me as soon as convenient a list of the mourning wished for by my Mother, yourself & Maryanne, and if you can give me any Instructions respecting the Transfer [of stock] I shall be much obliged. Mrs. W. H. unites in most affectionate remembrance to all yr circle & believe me ever, my dr Julia, yr truly affectionate sister

Frances Humphry.”

William Ozias Humphry was buried at Seal on 2nd June, described in the register as being “ of St. George's, Hanover Square, aged 46 years.” The inscription, on the same monument as that of his brother George (see p. 180) is as follows:—

“ Also to the memory
of William Ozias Humphry Esq.
(of the Council Office, Whitehall), their eldest son,
who departed this life the 26th May, 1826,
at the age of 46 years.”

Though he had been in the possession of a comfortable income, it seems that he had neglected to make any adequate provision for his wife and family. He died without a will, and his widow was obliged to take out letters of administration to his effects. The whole family passed some time at Seal in August, after which they accompanied Mrs. Moody, a friend and near neighbour in London, on a visit to the seaside.

Meanwhile, the effects of the shock on Maryanne's health, caused by her brother's illness and death, became more apparent. She complained of unpleasant sensations

in her head and in August departed for Broomham in order that she might indulge in the shower bath and dry cupping. This was not found to be beneficial; and as Maryanne was very restless and excitable, and most difficult to manage, she engaged lodgings at Hastings for the sake of the sea-bathing there, which did her some good, and she returned to Seal with the Ashburnhams at the end of October. She never quite recovered, and from that period was always excitable, full of strange ideas and alarms for her health, and possessed of a constant desire for change.

The next letter of interest is from Miss Humphry.

“Seal, Octr. 20th, 1826.

My dear Julia,

. . . I went to Tonbridge Wednesday to pass the day with my Aunt, on the anniversary of her 87th birthday. . . . I called on poor Mrs. Francis Woodgate & found her in bed in a very suffering state. Caroline Hardinge is still at Sundridge; her health is so much improved that she intends visiting some of her friends previous to her leaving the Neighbourhood. Monday she comes to Wildernesse for a few days; the middle of the week she goes to Mrs. Evelyn, & Saturday sen'night she is to be with us. We requested her to defer her visit as long as she could in the hope of her meeting the Broomham *Trio* here. Mr. & Mrs. William Woodgate with their little Boy came to Greatness yesterday for a week, we are to drink Tea there this evening with a small party. Ly. G. Pratt made us a sociable visit this morning & requested me to come to Wildernesse & see the Gardens &c. before their beauty is quite eclipsed. Ly. Caroline has reached home by easy stages & her Health is much improved. We hear you have been much engaged & very gay of late. . . . Frances Humphry.”

“Seal, Octr. 26th, 1826.

My dear Julia,

We shall be truly happy to see our Broomham friends on Saturday next You will be concerned to hear that a return of indisposition obliges Caroline Hardinge to change her plans; instead of visiting her friends as she intended, she has gone to Town for medical advice previous to her settling at Pembury for the winter. . . . We drank tea at Wildernesse on Tuesday & passed a very sociable pleasant evening with Lady Camden & Ly. Georgiana. We were invited to Greatness the same day to meet Mr. & Mrs. West & Fanny, & regretted being previously engaged. Our Postern friends called yesterday on their return home. Fanny looks extremely well in mourning, but it is a little unfortunate being obliged to put on a sable garb for one for whom she could not entertain any very great affection, after having *made preparations* for her *winter Campaign*. Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Woodgate are still at Greatness, we see them frequently; their little boy is a remarkably fine child, & the very image of his Father. . . . Frances Humphry.”

Sir Richard Hardinge died in November, and was succeeded in the baronetcy by his nephew Charles, the Vicar of Tunbridge. His death is referred to in the following:

“[Seal, Novr. 21st, 1826.]

“My dearest Julia,

. . . We spent a pleasant evening yesterday with Mr. & Mrs. Wharton; it was a small party consisting of the family at Greatness & Mr. Whitehead. My Mother was quite gratified at again visiting a house where she has passed a large & happy portion of her life. They gave us an elegant entertainment & Mr. Nouaille was gratified by an exhibition of Fossils & minerals shewn to him by Mr. Wharton, the chief merit of which consisted in their being brought from the North Pole & presented by Captain Parry. I am sorry our cousin Fanny & Mr. & Mrs. West have been confined with colds; to the former a little temporary delay of pleasure may increase enjoyment. Do inform me if any matrimonial overture is likely to be made in that quarter? You will be glad to hear that our friend Caroline has been remembered by her uncle in a legacy of a thousand pounds & the jewels belonging

to the late Lady Hardinge. His widow has a settlement of £500 a year & two thousand pounds, & Sir Charles the plate. This I *gleaned* from Mrs. Nouaille who heard it at 7 oaks yesterday. Our late friend Sir Richard was so well known in this neighbourhood that the distribution of his fortune has created some interest, and the eccentric he was yet so friendly & hospitable that he will be greatly missed by those of his family & friends who best knew him. Your kind remembrance was gratefully received by Mrs. Still; it was, she said, quite a beauty & she regretted that *her ladyship* should have been at Seal without seeing her, & this sentiment has been echoed by all her humble friends, with concern that Indisposition was the Cause. Fanny hears that Sir Richard has remembered all his family in a very affectionate manner with the exception of Mrs. Stephen, who he considered had been handsomely provided for by her Aunts. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

"[27th Nov. 1826.]

My dear Julia,

. . . Mrs. Nouaille has not heard from Mrs. West since their Residence at Hastings, therefore your intelligence was very acceptable. She is desirous to establish little social parties weekly at Greatness, our House & Mr. Whitehead's, & for Mr. & Mrs. Wharton occasionally to join when the weather is mild & favourable. Our friend Sir Richard died much richer than was supposed. To the present baronet he has left the Irish estate (which when he came into possession was heavily mortgaged & was enabled to clear) & the plate & china, both considered of great value; and his pictures between his three nephews. To Caroline (as I mentioned before) a thousand pounds and the late Lady Hardinge's diamonds; £5000 to Sir Henry, settled on his marriage; £3000 to Captain Hardinge, and half his personal effects; to his widow £2000, with her jointure £500 a year & the remainder of his personals; Mr. Gore a thousand pounds, and to the Cullums £4000; to all his nephews & nieces in the same degree of relationship £100, with the exception I am sorry to add of Mrs. Stephen Woodgate. The two executors are Sir Charles & Captain Hardinge. Fanny has received a letter from Caroline containing some just observations on her Uncle's character; she says, "tho' like all human beings not without failings, yet he was so agreeable, hospitable & kindhearted that he cannot fail of being greatly missed by his family and friends; and the reflection that he was the last of his high gifted generation is itself melancholy." . . . A second Robbery has lately occurred at Mr. Lambard's; some person escaped from the hall door, after purloining various articles of clothing & taking from Miss Mary Lambard's work box a valuable set of gold implements for work. A police officer came down from London, but has not succeeded in discovering the depredator. The knowledge of this burglary makes us rejoice in the possession of *Boxer*, who evinces a *decided hostility* to all intruders. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

A letter from Frances Humphry, on December 12th, 1826, gives an account of her aunt's critical state. She was kept alive by three glasses of sherry a day. She says:—

" . . . I received a note from Maryanne last night by Penfold, stating that Ly. G. Pratt had requested her to arrange & procure the prizes for the children of the school, & never having undertaken the office before, feels a little at a loss & requests if I can leave my Aunt that I would return for a day or two to render her a little assistance. As Mr. Morris sees no symptoms of immediate change, I purpose going home *to-day* for one or two nights. My presence appears to afford my Aunt so much satisfaction that I should be very unwilling to leave her for any length of time in so critical a state. Our nephew William comes to Seal on Monday; I hope his society will prove an amusement to my dear Mother & Maryanne. Since I have been here I have received several kind visits from Caroline Hardinge, & Saturday Mr. S. Woodgate called to make personal enquiries. Mrs. James West is looking poorly. . . . I sincerely wish her nerves were stronger to enable her to support the inevitable trials of life. . . . Frances Humphry."

On her return from Seal, Frances Humphry found her patient weaker, and in greater pain. . . . "Maryanne is fully occupied in arranging the Prizes for the School, & any employment that takes her attention *from herself* is beneficial. William arrived (quite well) the day before I left Seal. Mrs. W. Humphry has lately received a very kind letter from Ld. Camden, stating how desirous himself & Ld. Harrowby are of obtaining some provision for her, & regretting the illness of Lord Liverpool has prevented their conferring with him on the subject. They are certainly rather slow in their proceedings, but we still hope much good may result from such powerful Interest. . . . Sir Charles & Ly. Hardinge with Mrs. Callender called during my absence; they repeated their visit yesterday & sat some time with me. Caroline comes to the Vicarage on Saturday for a week. How truly melancholy the circumstances of poor Mr. Wheater's death. He was so estimable a character that this event must have plunged his family & friends in the deepest affliction. I conclude you will join Mrs. West's dinner party to-morrow & hope it will prove agreeable. I hear yr party on Thursday was most agreeable, the *new china* much admired, an excellent dinner well dressed, & altogether a most handsome entertainment. *So says my informant.* . . . Frances Humphry."

"Seal, Decr. ye 24th,

My dearest Fanny. . . . I quite grieve that you cannot pass Xmas with us. . . . Mary Ann accompanied Mrs. Nouaille to the Book Meeting on Monday & met a very pleasant party. She was so fortunate to draw No. 9 for Lady Camden & got her favourite lot; mine was No. 19; for such a high number I think I was fortunate in getting the life of Kemble. She has had a great deal to do this week in settling the affairs of the school. Lady Georgiana Pratt call'd this morning & approved very much of what she had done. William is a very good Boy & receives quite as much pleasure from the Donkey Chaise as his brother Richard. I saw little Martha Woodgate, & think her a sweet little girl. The Family at the Grove are not yet arrived. . . . Elizabeth Humphry."

[December 29th, 1826].

"My dear Julia. . . . My Mother, you will be happy to learn, is very well at this time & attended Church on Xmas day. Lady Londonderry is now at Wilderness, & Sir Henry & Lady Emily with their three children. They favoured us with a visit this morning. Lord Castlereagh is also one of their family circle. You have probably heard of the premature death of Lord Amherst's eldest son, who fell a victim to the effects of a contagious fever about a fortnight after his return from the Burmah army, against which he had distinguished himself on several occasions, & is deservedly lamented. Lord Amherst has also had the same fever, but happily is now recovered. Mrs. West writes word she attended a splendid party at Broomham a short time since. I am glad to hear Fanny Woodgate is looking so well; the arrival of her uncle and aunt must prove an acquisition to her residence at Hastings. Anne Nouaille is *equipping* herself for her intended visit & looks forward with much pleasure to partaking of the Hastings festivities. Mrs. Wharton dined with us on Tuesday & Mrs. Nouaille's family &c. came in the evening, & last night we drank tea at Greatness to meet the same party. We were favoured with a visit from Lord Camden a few days since. Both himself & Lord Harrowby have had a communication with Lord Liverpool on the subject of a pension to Mrs. Humphry, & the result he *hopes* may be satisfactory in consequence of my Brother's long services, altho' the first lord of the Treasury is reluctant to admit a precedent of this kind in the present state of the Country. Lord Camden in the most friendly manner enquired the age of William, & said that had he been two years younger he could have placed him at Merchant Taylors School. From the interest with which he enquired the respective ages of the other children, I really think he would be glad to assist in their education & advancement in life; he hoped if Mrs. Humphry's income was increased, William might be sent to a good school, & thought it to be regretted he had not been instructed in Latin. He is upon the whole a very good

Boy ; he desires me to thank his Aunt Ashburnham for her kind remembrance to him. Travels & voyages seem to be his favourite reading at present. My Mother had a visit to-day from Lady Hardinge & Caroline ; I was so unlucky to miss them, having walked with William towards Sevenoaks. Poor Fanny must have a melancholy time at Tunbridge."

The next letter is from Mrs. Humphry, describing Lord Camden's visit in much the same terms as above :—

" Seal, Decembr 31st, [1826].

My dearest Fanny,

The account you send of my dr Sister is very distressing indeed, & we can only pray that she may experience an happy Transition from this to a happier & more durable state of existence. I thank you for your note ; may many many happy years attend you & reward the kind attention you have shewn to my dr sister. It gave me sincere pleasure to see Lady Hardinge, Mrs. Callender & dr Caroline. I hope you have often had that happiness, indeed I am truly grateful for their kindness ; Sr. Henry & Lady Emily Hardinge had called just before. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Petley & Henry made me a visit on that morning, unluckily Mary Anne & William were walked out. Anne Nouaille is going to Hastings on Tuesday. We have returned Miss Yates' books & received a kind & polite note in return, saying she & her sister intended calling very soon & bringing some of the same books unbound. May all the Blessings of this hallowed season attend you, my sister & all Friends at Tunbridge. Most affectionately yours, Elizabeth Humphry."

Rose Woodgate died on New Years' day, 1827. For letters descriptive of this event see under Chapter X.

On the 3rd January, Frances Humphry, after stating briefly the provisions of the will, adds :—

" Mrs. Nouaille came down this morning (with Anne who was on her way to Hastings), & sat two hours with me. Her account of my dear Mother is delightful ; she supports the present affliction with her accustomed resignation under every dispensation of the Divine will. I have received many kind letters, particularly from Mrs. S. Woodgate, who requests to hear from me again. Dear Caroline called repeatedly, & said how delighted she should be if her servant Ford, who is an excellent Nurse, could be of use on the late occasion. . . . "

Mary Ann Humphry writes to her sister :—

" We have all lost an invaluable friend in our dear Aunt, & it must prove a consoling reflection that you was enabled to sooth & impart consolation to her dying hours. Remember us very kindly to Susan, whose constant care & affection to her poor Mistress we are very glad she has so kindly remembered."

After the funeral was over, Frances and the Ashburnhams went together to Seal. Mary Ann informs Lady Ashburnham that she will find her nephew William Humphry " rather a *rough blade*, but possessed of a frank & generous disposition."

The New Year's Ball at Sevenoaks that year, at which of course the Humphrys were not present, was attended by more than a hundred and forty ; and the band from Almack's, without the harp, provided the music. The Ashburnhams did not stay long at Seal, and on their departure Frances Humphry returned to Tonbridge for a few days to see after her Aunt's affairs. She went back to Seal at the beginning of February whence she writes to her sister Julia on the 5th :—

" . . . Poor Mrs. Francis Woodgate was in a very suffering state for some days last week, & early on Saturday morning to the great joy & surprise of Mr. Francis & her friends gave birth to a very fine little girl, & when I left Tonbridge both Mother and child were going on as well as possible. I understand the infant is a remarkably fine child. Mr. Francis desired me to say he should have acquainted

you with this happy event had I not been writing. I heard a report at Tonbridge, which I sincerely hope may prove correct, that the late Mrs. Jones (who felt much for the situation of Anna Woodgate) has left her a legacy. I saw Anna who expressed much surprize & gratitude for our dear Aunt's kind legacy. I spent a very sociable pleasant day with Ly. Hardinge, who kindly offered to bring me home. Miss Eliza Yates, hearing I was at Tonbridge, rode over & called on me. She was accompanied by Miss Peel, the eldest sister of the late Mrs. Yates. As the House at Tonbridge, is in so dilapidated a state, my Mother appears disposed to sell it, but has not quite made up her mind on the subject. I assure you I was not idle during my stay at Tonbridge; I settled everything that can be done at present and, am happy to add, much to my Mother's satisfaction. We were invited to dine at Wilderness last week to meet Sir A. Crichton & his family; as I was absent Maryanne did not feel quite equal to meet a party of strangers & therefore declined the Invitation. Sir Alexander with his lady & family were at Church yesterday; we purpose calling on them in the course of a few days. William is still here, & his reluctance to leave Seal is not *diminished*. He is so happy & good humoured that we shall be quite sorry to part with him, but do not think it right to keep him beyond the end of the present week."

" Seal, Febr'y. 20th, 1827.

My dear Julia, . . . We are happy to find Mr. Cubitt's opinion of Broomham is so satisfactory & hope his Estimates of the expense will prove equally so. I am very glad the oak panels remain. They accord so well with the general character of the House that I should have been quite sorry had it been necessary to remove them. We have heard nothing from Mr. Palmer, do you think I should write to him? On Sunday last my Mother received the usual letter from the Stamp office, apprizing her that a copy of my Aunt's will had been received there. When I go to Tonbridge again (which is delayed till we have heard from Mr. Palmer) it is my Mother's present intention that I should select what Furniture we think will be useful, and (after giving some to Susan) Mr. Stidolph is to take the remainder for sale (without its being known to whom it formerly belonged). We think this will be a desirable mode of disposing of it. My Mother has not quite made up her mind respecting the House. Some of her friends think it desirable to sell, & others that they should be unwilling to part with it. What is your opinion on this subject? I am sure it was the wish of our departed Aunt that whatever plan is most desirable should be adopted, & regret my Mother should not derive advantage from so kind a bequest. Several offers have been made for taking it ready furnished for six months, but we do not think it is in a state to let till it has undergone repair. My Aunt Woodgate has lately been very ill, & is still in a weak languid state, which has prevented our seeing my Uncle & talking over this business with him. We find our new Neighbours at the Grove very agreeable; their family consists of three grown up daughters (pleasing accomplished young women) & two little boys at School.

On Saturday last Maryanne & myself dined at Wilderness with Sir Alexdr, Ly. & Miss Crichton, Mr. & Mrs. John Austen & Mr. Irving, which with their own family made a party of twelve, & we had a most agreeable visit. In the evening Miss Crichton gratified the party with some musick. She sang several French, Spanish & Italian airs & her performance was much admired. We were quite glad to meet our old friend Mr. Irving. He came up to attend the Funeral of the late Venerable Archdeacon of Rochester. Mr. Irving's family has lately been increased by the addition of another daughter. Our friends at Greatness are gone to Tonbridge to-day to be present at the Christening of Dr. Knox's youngest little boy, to whom Mr. Nouaille is to be a Sponsor. On Thursday Anne Nouaille is going to Nizells to pass a week with Mrs. Cornwallis. Mr. & Mrs. West & Fanny Woodgate kindly came up & spent the morning with us yesterday. They are all quite well & highly pleased with their sojourn at Hastings. Our friend William arrived safe in Town, & we are gratified to hear from Mrs. W. Humphry that she thinks him

much improved by his visit to Seal. You see by the papers that Lord Amherst has sent in his resignation ; the death of his son, together with Ly. Amherst & his Daughter's being out of Health, induced the wish to relinquish his appointment. . . "

" Seal, March 8th, 1827.

[To Lady Ashburnham]. . . We hope Mrs. W. Humphry's Prospects brighten. She has received a most kind letter from Ld. Harrowby which I will transcribe for your perusal. We think it gives great reason to hope that some Provision will be made for her by Government. I go to Tonbridge on Monday next & do not expect to make the necessary arrangements in less than a week. Mr. & Mrs. West kindly proposed my taking up my abode at the Postern ; this I declined, as it would interfere with the necessary proceedings at my late Aunt's. If the best Bed will be useful at Broomham, my Mother desires me to say she hopes you will accept it, & if you will let me know how you would like it conveyed, I will see it packed & sent before I leave Tonbridge. . . . Anne Nouaille went to the Postern on Tuesday to attend a party at Mr. Scoones' in the evening ; she does not return immediately as Mr. & Mrs. West are in daily expectation of a visit from Mr., Mrs. & Miss Goodenough in their way from Hastings, & it was a promise that Anne should meet them there. . . Frances Humphry."

Lord Harrowby's letter was in the following terms :—

" Grosvenor Square, 20th Febr., 1827.

Madam, I can truly assure you that I have not been inattentive to your claims. Before I left London at Christmas, I had pressed them more than once on the attention of Lord Liverpool & Mr. Robinson, & I found in my conversation with the former that he appeared impressed with their justice, & that we both agreed in thinking that some provision might be made for you in a mode which would obviate the difficulties which had struck Mr. Robinson on the ground of official precedent. I wrote to Lord Liverpool, not long ago, a letter stating the whole case at considerable length ; urging his early attention to it, desiring him to communicate it to Mr. Robinson. To this letter I have received no reply, & I fear that his lordship's unfortunate illness will necessarily delay any decision, but I think the grounds upon which the claim is made are so strong, whoever may have to make the decision, you may depend upon my renewing the application, though I cannot answer for the success. In the meantime, as I am sensible of the inconvenience you must sustain from delay, however unavoidable, I will beg you to permit me to inclose a draft for Fifty pounds, which may I hope be of some little use in any immediate embarrassment. I am, Madam, Your obedient humble servant

Harrowby."

On the 19th March, Mrs. W. Humphry was able to inform Lady Ashburnham of the complete success of Lord Harrowby's exertions on her behalf. " I am well assured," she says, " that both Sir William & yourself will congratulate me on this piece of good fortune. How kind Lord Harrowby is and has been to me ; and to Lord Camden I owe a vast deal for the kind part he has acted toward me."

Mention may here be made of Rose Woodgate's affairs. She left the house in Tonbridge (sold to Mr. Scoones for £900) ; the Moat, Cowden, offered for sale at £6,000, but withdrawn ; £8,700 in 3 per cent. consols and £1,200 in 3½ per cent reduced annuities. After a great number of legacies, the residue was given to Mrs. Humphry, the sole Executrix, who thus became entitled to a very large share of the estate. The Moat, which had been bought by John Woodgate of Summerhill over a hundred years previously, was devised, as to one quarter, to Henry Woodgate of Riverhill subject to £700 in legacies to his children ; and as to the residue, to Mrs. Humphry for life, with remainder to her three daughters. Palmer, France & Palmer, Solicitors, of Bedford Row, proved the will. The Probate Duty was £160.

An attempt was made to sell the Moat. It was first offered to the Rev. Thomas Harvey of Cowden (brother of Mrs. Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove), as Trustee

for General Maitland (g), the owner of adjoining property, but declined. Mr. Henry Blackman of Lewes was the other trustee.

The property comprised some 216 acres of arable, meadow and woodland, of which about 60 acres were meadow. It was subject to an annual quit rent to the Lord of the Manor of Lewisham of £1 5s. 6d., and to a similar sum as a relief on death; also to a yearly sum of 4s., payable to Sackville College, East Grinstead. Land Tax redeemed.

The opportunity was taken of offering the Humphrys' Seal property to Lord Camden for £3,500, subject however to the use of the house and garden by Mrs. Humphry during her life. This too seems to have been declined.

At the time of her death Rose Woodgate had £300 in cash in the house; and the furniture was valued at £400, books £100, pictures £150, trinkets £50, plate £90, and china and linen £30. These valuations were for "probate purposes."

In July, Mary Anne Humphry is found staying at Mrs. Day's house at Brighton, for the benefit of her health and under the advice of Sir Alexander Crichton. She writes:—

"Brighton, July 6th, 1827.

My dear Fanny,. . . Our friend William being now staying with you was a surprise to me, & I have no doubt he enjoys the country during this cheerful season more than when he paid his last visit at Xmas. I am interested in hearing of his progress in latin, & am sure his Aunt Fanny will stimulate his improvement in that desirable language. I am really much concerned to find your former intelligence, of our friends at Greatness selling their property, confirmed by your last letter. I wish to know how dear Mrs. Nouaille supports the prospect of quitting a situation that has been the theatre of her kindness and active benevolence to her friends & the poor around her for a period of so many years. To our dear Mother & ourselves she will be an immense loss, & we shall much miss & regret the society of our young friends. I was favoured by a most sociable letter from dear Julia last week; the painters & paper hangers came to Broomham on the Wednesday, & were proceeding in their operations with all expedition. Both herself & Sir William seem to be looking forward with much satisfaction to the completion of the repairs undertaken by Mr. Cubit for the present year. Mrs. Newnham & her niece Miss Trump favoured me with a visit on Monday last, & the following day sent me an invitation to dinner, which I accepted, & among three young ladies was agreeably surprised to meet Miss Arabella Streatfeild, who has been passing the last fortnight at Brighton, looking younger & prettier than I ever recollect. She kindly called upon me this morning

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- (g) General the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Maitland, G.C.B., younger son of the Earl of Lauderdale, died of apoplexy in 1824. He was Governor of Malta, Commander of the forces in the Mediterranean, and Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Isles.

Mr. Maitland's letter was as follows:—

"Westerham, 25th April 1827.

Sirs, Mr. Harvey of Cowden has given me your letter to him relative to the Moat farm in that parish, the contents of which I communicated to my Trustees, who agree with me in thinking the sum of £6000 much beyond its value. The utmost I should feel inclined to offer would be £4500, which must necessarily be subject to the approbation of my Trustees, S. M. Maitland."

In 1836, Mr. Donald McLean, of the Oxford Circuit, submitted an offer which was declined. He states that the Moat was near a property belonging to his father-in-law.

The following advertisement for sale of the house in Tonbridge appeared in the *Times* and *Morning Herald*.

"Tonbridge Town—To be sold by private contract, a messuage in the High Street lately occupied by Mrs. Rose Woodgate deceased with a large garden behind the same. The premises are freehold, and present a desirable opportunity for any gentleman having sons who wishes to take advantage of the richly endowed Grammar School of Sir Andrew Judd at Tonbridge for their Education. Immediate possession may be had, and further particulars known on application to Messrs. Palmer, France & Palmer, Solicitors, Bedford Row, London; and of Mr. Stidolph, Parish Clerk, Tonbridge, who will shew the premises."

to ask me to walk with her on the pier this evening at eight. . . . Yesterday a young Man from Northumberland arrived. In manner he reminds me a little of our *northern relative*, who took his departure so abruptly. . . ."

It may be a matter for some surprise that the Miss Humphrys were acquainted with Latin. Their father was deeply learned both in Greek and Latin, and imparted a thorough knowledge of these languages to his children. Dinner used to be about three o'clock, after which Mr. Humphry would read aloud, often from the classics, while the daughters occupied themselves with needlework. Very often this would be followed by a rubber of whist. The next letter is also from Brighton.

"German Place, July 12th, 1827.

My dear Fanny, Altho' you have not answered my last letter, yet you are so good a correspondent that it would be reprehensible in me not to take advantage of Miss Arabella Streatfeild's kind offer to convey a letter to you. I am quite sorry to lose the society of Miss Streatfeild; she is so pleasant & good natured that I shall quite miss the walks I have taken with her. . . ."

Mary Ann Humphry's time was very pleasantly occupied in walks, drives, picnics to the Devil's Dyke, musical parties, and other amusements. The chain pier and the frequent arrival of steam packets were a constant source of interest. The other inmates of the establishments were the aforesaid Mr. Etherington from Northumberland (a great favourite), who had lately succeeded his father; Mr. and Mrs. Grey, elderly people from Camberwell; Mr. Dyer, uncle of Mr. Stonestreet of Hastings; Mr. Jacob, of the Board of Works, and a Member of Parliament; and a Captain Baker, an officer in the navy. Captain Baker had married a niece of Mr. Thursby, and was then a widower. "I was surprised to hear from him," says Mary Ann Humphry, "that our friend Henry Thursby, before his marriage to Miss Bessy Papillon, was considered a great flirt among the young ladies."

On the 17th August, Mary Ann Humphry refers to the marriage of Capt. Hardinge with Miss Callender. She was surprised to hear how quickly it was all over; and declares "they have indeed been prompt in their measures." She continues: "I saw in the paper the demise of poor Mrs. W. Wakefield at the house of her uncle the Earl of Albermarle. All things considered, she may have been taken away in mercy, for her future state presented a dreary prospect. Is the rumour true that our friend Caroline is to follow the example of her brother Richard?"

Mary Ann Humphry stayed at Brighton till the latter part of November. The last letter to her was dated from Seal the 17th November, 1827:—

"My dear Maryanne, Having obtained a frank from Lord Brecknock, my Mother gladly takes the opportunity of sending you a remittance, & is sorry to have been necessarily obliged to remain so long in Mrs. Day's debt. When you have fixed the day for yr return, if you will give us a line, James shall await yr arrival at Tonbridge & order a Chaise to convey you & yr luggage home. . . . I had a letter from Caroline Hardinge lately in which she desires her best love to you; it is still uncertain when her Marriage takes place. Mr. Palliser is trying to effect an exchange into the Horse Artillery, which never leave England except on actual service. She promised to inform us of the result, & not having heard further from her fear he has not succeeded. Miss Round (*h*) was married here a fortnight ago to a Brother of Mr. Carnell's of Tonbridge, & *our friend* Mr. Buttonshaw is shortly to be united to his pretty cousin Miss Sarah Carnell. The Church was opened last Sunday with a very full congregation. We like Mr. Engleheart very much; he is a well informed sensible man & very active in the discharge of his professional Duty, but does not appear to have good health. . . . We are happy to find you have had such pleasant society, & promise ourselves much amusement from a recital of the gay scenes by which you have been surrounded."

Mary Ann Humphry writes once more from Brighton on the 21st stating that Miss Swinley's aunt had invited Miss Arabella Streatfeild to pass the winter at Brighton, as her health was delicate and the air there agreed with her better than that of Chiddingstone. Mr. W. Streatfeild had been presented by the Bishop of London to a small living in Essex.

The prolonged stay at Brighton had contributed very materially to the cure, though it had cost more than a hundred pounds. Brighton was at that time a place of great fashion.

The next year, 1828, young William Humphry was sent to school at Kingston House, Regents Park. There are two or three letters to his grandmother, but this will serve as a specimen, written in a round boyish hand, and dated 6th February.

"My dear Grandmother,

A month is now elapsed since I had the pleasure of seeing you and my Aunts. You have I suppose heard that I had a very quick & pleasant journey into London. Aunt Maryanne's letter to Mrs. Day went to the Council Office [for a frank] on Tuesday; tell her it was sure to go, because Mr. Flint said he would see that it should go to Mr. Greville who was then confined to his room.

I heard from Mamma a few days ago, who says that Fred has been confined to his bed with a bad eye. He has had leaches & a great quantity of medicine. I say steam Coaches will not answer because they are always a bursting. They will only go a certain number of miles before it requires fresh water & Fuel. Give my kind love to Aunt Fanny & Aunt Maryanne. Tell Aunt Fanny that in a short time I will write to her, which she shall not call bob short as she usually does. Tell Aunt Maryanne that I am in the same Latin Books as when I was last at Seal. I forgot to use the proper way of address, but am sure you will forgive it this time. I intend according to Aunt Maryanne's wish to send Mr. Whitehead the said Valentine. I remain, my dear Grandmamma, your dutiful & affectionate grandson

William Humphry."

The next letter describes a visit of Miss Humphry to London. Much of her time was occupied in shopping and executing various commissions; but she managed to find time to attend some of the exhibitions then being held. Writing of the fashions, she describes "the hats as most preposterous, both in size and trimming. They are generally made of blended colours. Your bonnett may be made very smart by the addition of either flowers or feathers, as suits the occasion."

"Seal, June 8th, 1828.

". . . You will think my time was not wholly engaged in business when I tell you I passed three hours at the Exhibition, & went to see the Water Colours exhibition in Suffolk Street, the Diocanna in the Regents Park, and (by tickets from Mr. Lennard) the Zoological Society in Burton Street, & Astley's Theatre. At the Royal Academy, Sir Thomas Lawrence is as usual pre-eminent. The Countess of Gower & her daughter & Lord Eldon are exquisite pictures; the former, with her child, are beautiful subjects for the canvas. On the whole I was more pleased with the Exhibition in Suffolk Street, which is a beautiful exhibition of paintings. We dined one day with Capt. Newcombe, who was as hospitable & cordial as on my former visit. I called on Mrs. Ponton & Mr. Hemming, both of whom gave me pressing invitations to visit them for a longer period, but this my stay in Town would not permit. Mr. Hemming expressed the utmost pleasure at seeing me. He made many enquiries after you, & said if you could apprise him when you visit Town, how happy he should be to call on you. I made William & Julia a visit at their respective schools; they are both looking very well & much improved. William points much on visiting Broomham during his summer vacation. On Sunday last I attended the morning service at Westminster Abbey, & afterwards went to St. Margaret's Church. Whenever I saw any good prints, I thought of Sir William's Album, & wished they were added to his collection. During my absence Mr. Atkins,

three of his daughters, a brother-in-law, & nephew called, & my Mother & Maryanne found them very agreeable. Capt. & Mrs. Woodgate also made them a visit; John was very cordial, and they conjecture from his manner he regrets his injudicious letters. Our Church is at this time Painting. We had a pleasant walk to Kemping this morning, & a numerous congregation."

The next letter is addressed to Mary Anne Humphry, at Broomham.

"Seal, July 18th, 1828.

My dear Maryanne. . . I am not surprised that Broomham exceeded your expectations, for I really think no place ever exhibited a more improved appearance. What a change we have had in the weather! Alas, for our *poor Hay*, which we fear has suffered much; & when it will be got in it is impossible to say in the present uncertain state of the atmosphere. My Mother is quite well, & rises every morning at eight o'clock. Last week we called at Wilderness & were most graciously received by Lady Camden & Lady G. Pratt. Lady Camden conducted my Mother into Ly. Georgiana's room, from which she had a full view of the conservatory & orangery. Lady Camden very kindly gave me cuttings of several new Geraniums that we did not before possess, & I hope to be successful in raising them. . . . I have no doubt William quitted Broomham with reluctance; how very kind of Sir William to indulge him with the use of a poney. Nothing I am sure would have afforded him equal pleasure. I hope he was a good Boy and not unmindful of the *hints* he received at Seal. This morning's post brought a hasty line from him. He will be disappointed in not meeting James with *his Rabbits*: an interval of sunshine renders his presence indispensable in the Hay field. Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille, Anne & Peter are to pass a fortnight with Mr. Boswell at his seat near Doncaster during the month of September. The young people anticipate much pleasure from the excursion, & I hope it will prove agreeable & beneficial to all the party. Mr. Engleheart brought his Father to call here last week & requested he might be permitted to see the miniatures, which he admired exceedingly, & was so obliging to say when he visits the neighbourhood again he will remove the injury they have sustained from damp, & endeavour to secure them from further injury from the same cause in future. Mrs. Whitaker was made very happy previous to her leaving Sevenoaks by a letter from Mr. Henry Walter, stating that it was so long since he had been able to see her, & having a little time at his disposal, he hoped to pass a few days with her during the present week.

I had written thus far yesterday morning when Mrs. Nouaille came with her Daughter, requesting us to take Anne for a night in consequence of Mr. Rush having arrived from Town with his son recently recovered from the measles, & she was unwilling for Anne to incur the risk of infection. . . . The Archdeacon of Rochester visited the Churches of Kemping & Seal on Wednesday last; he issued orders for repairs in Kemping, & directed that the modern window (which has so long been an eyesore) on the South side of Seal Church should be removed, together with several changes of minor importance, & said he should expect these alterations to be carried into effect before the next Visitation. Mr. & Mrs. Lipscomb, with his Brother in the Navy, have just been here. We are happy to see Mrs. Lipscomb so much improved in Health, which she attributes to change of air & the kindness she received from her friends in Sussex. I hope you will derive equal benefit from your excursion. . . . Frances Humphry."

The next letter is from Miss Humphry, inviting the Ashburnhams to Seal in order to be ready to attend Fanny Woodgate's wedding with Musgrave Brisco. Mary Anne Humphry was to be one of the bridesmaids.*

"Seal, August 27th, 1828.

. . . The neighbourhood has been *quite alive* since the return of Ld. & Ly. Amherst. On Friday last there was a Ball at Seven Oaks, in honour of the

* See Reference Sheet.

event, at which the Montreal family, a party from Knole, & most of the neighbourhood was present, amounting in the whole to about a hundred. Ld. & Ly. Amherst must be gratified by the reception they have received ; all classes of their neighbours appear anxious to testify their joy on the occasion. We called at Montreal last week & were received by Ly. Amherst, Ly. Sarah Amherst & Ly. Harriet Clive ; they were all very agreeable, & nothing can exceed the pleasure they express at returning to England. . . . The day we went to Montreal we met Sir Charles & Ly. Hardinge coming to Seal. Sir Charles has purchased Bounds of Ld. Caledon, with the intention of making it his future residence. His Irish property is either sold or upon sale at this time. Mr. Rush accompanied Mr. Nouaille's family to tea here on Monday, which with the Miss Crichtons & our *Village Pastor* constituted our little Party. Lord Amherst has just called here ; he sat half an hour conversing in the most agreeable manner & enquired with much kindness after every member of the family. The House at Knole is filled with visitors. Ld. & Ly. De la Warr are there, the first visit she has made her sister at her native place since the death of the Duchess. The Duchess of Kent is coming from the Wells to dine there one day this week. . . . Frances Humphry."

There is one more letter from William Humphry, from Kingston House, dated 20th October, 1828. Three months later he was dead. His mother had written to him stating that the family at Seal desired a letter from him ; but he writes saying he has had a bad finger, or he would have written before ; also that his letter to his Aunt Fanny would have been longer, had not his finger pained him so much. He was out of Phaedrus' Fables, and in Cornelius Nepos. He says also that the mornings were so cold and foggy that Mr. Garrett had had a fire in the schoolroom for the first time ; that one of the boys, Edward Kynaston, had left for Westminster ; and that he had " been learning drilling since Midsummer, which has much improved my walking, and makes me look in every person's face when I am speaking to them. I suppose before this you have parted with your old Donkey, and the young one has taken his place, but I hope that is better than the other one, which did not go faster than a slug's gallop."

" Seal, Novr. 6th, 1828.

My dear Julia, . . . We rejoice Sir Willm. has let his Farm to his satisfaction. He will be relieved from much vexation & anxiety, & we hope it will prove advantageous in a pecuniary point of view. . . . Sir Alexr Crichton has let his House in Town for a term of 14 years. The lady that has taken it declines the furniture, which is very costly & handsome ; & Ly. Crichton fears they shall sustain considerable loss in disposing of it by auction. The Nouailles are returned much pleased with their northern excursion. York is forty miles from Mr. Boswell's, & therefore too distant to allow them to visit it during their short sojourn. We are very glad you had an opportunity of seeing Sir Charles & Ly. Hardinge previous to their quitting Hastings. We hear the Gentleman to whom the dowager Ly. Hardinge is married has the appointment of Store-keeper at Chatham, & is a brother of Col. Jones of the Engineers. I am sure all the friends of Mrs. Palliser [late Caroline Hardinge] heartily concur in the wish that the efforts of her family may prove successful in bringing her among them. We received a letter from Mrs. Wm. Humphry a few days ago. The children's coughs are better, & she hopes Frederick will be admitted at Hertford this month. Her friend Mrs. Moody has lately entered a second time into the matrimonial state ; I am sorry for the loss Mrs. H. will sustain in her society. Mr. Cobb was married at Tonbridge last week, & brought his bride to Ightham the same day. We hear she is very beautiful, & widow of Mr. Legg, the late *Vicar of Bray*. The fineness of the weather induced my Mother to pay a visit at Fair Lawn on Saturday ; we found the Misses Yeates well, & passed two hours very agreeably with them. The dowager Lady Hawley has taken Mr. Claridge's House at Sevenoaks & is coming to reside there immediately. Mr. & Mrs. Henry

Buttanshaw [late Anna Woodgate of Summerhill] called on Saturday ; we were gone to Fair Lawn & regretted not seeing them. . . . Frances Humphry."

In November Miss Humphry paid a visit to Broomham ; and on the 20th received the following letter from her sister, at Seal :—

" . . . Lady G. Pratt visited us on Saturday. She has lately been passing a few days with Lady Delawarr. From her ladyship we learnt that the general mourning ceased on Sunday, & that Lady Camden & herself took it off on the following day. I was sorry you was not apprized of this, as it might have lightened the *weight* of your paraphernalia. Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille went down to the Postern yesterday to bring their daughter home. I accompanied Miss Crichton to call upon them. Anne informed me they had been enlivened by a letter from Mrs. Musgrave Brisco, describing the gratifying reception they had received at Hastings. . . . Sir Alexander Crichton has received a communication from Captain Hardinge to accept the office of Steward to the Balls for the ensuing year ; he wishes to decline the Honour, but I do not know what will prove the result. . . . This blotted letter will remind you of Ld. Collingwood's prohibition to his daughter, nevertheless I must be excused from the Haste I have been compelled to write."

" Seal, December 11th, 1828.

My dear Fanny, . . . Mrs. Whitaker you will be glad to hear is recovering from her late severe illness. Mrs. Lightfoot has received a few lines in her own writing, to signify this improvement. Mrs. Nouaille dressed a haunch of venison on Wednesday which I partook of with Mr. & Mrs. Wilgress & Mrs. Lightfoot. Mr. Lightfoot & their daughters joined the party in the evening. Lady Georgiana Pratt made us a visit last week. Lady Londonderry is expected at Wilderness in about a fortnight, & other friends this week. Lady Crichton came home for a few days only on Tuesday, having left her Father in so precarious a state as to intend returning to him in a few days. I am sorry poor Alicia is not allowed to partake the pleasing gaiety of Hastings, particularly as it arises from a derangement of the system. A second *Assembly* took place in our drawing room on Tuesday evening, the same party as before with the exception of the Miss Crichtons. Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille & Peter went yesterday to South Park intending to sleep there. Mrs. Allnutt & Maria returned from Town on Monday. I have been taking a ramble with Miss Crichtons this morning as far as Stone Street ; on my return they shewed me a collection of articles they have been making for the Hastings Bazaar, at the request of their friend Miss Fitton. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

The Bazaar was held in December (see p. 114) ; Miss Humphry had meanwhile returned to Seal, and writes to her sister (30th December) " I trust, my dear Julia, you have not suffered from the fatigue of attendance on this occasion ; and now that your engagements have in some measure subsided (& you are returned to the quiet scenes of domestick life) you will *have time* to attend to your health, & be quite well." She adds :—

" Mr. Polhill has taken Bradbourn for a year, to give time to arrange his affairs and look out for a permanent abode ; the family are very desirous of remaining in the neighbourhood. When the property was first on sale, Mr. Yates Peel made an offer of ninety five thousand pounds for the whole, which Mr. Polhill must now regret having declined, as the sum obtained for the part already disposed of falls far short of this price. I drank tea with Mrs. Nouaille on Friday last, & met Mr., Mrs. & Miss Lightfoot, Mr. Petley & his two eldest sons, Mr. Whitehead & Mr. Thomas Curteis. Julius has heard nothing respecting Pevensey (except from Mr. Rush) ; his hopes appeared to revive when I told him it was a mistake Mr. John Ashburnham's having granted *two Titles within the last three years*. Mr. Dodd of Penshurst is a friend of the Bishop of Chichester, & he has promised to represent his case to his lordship, which he hopes will be attended with success. Anne is anxious to be at Hastings by the 9th of January to attend Mrs. Goodenough's Ball, but is uncertain

whether she shall be able to carry her wishes into effect. I am sorry to say Mrs. W. Humphry's last letter gave an indifferent account of William, who is returned from School indisposed; she appears to think he has outgrown his strength & hopes a little attention to diet, aided by good nursing, may soon restore him to Health. Lady Londonderry, Sir Henry & Ly. Emily Hardinge, Col. & Mrs. Evelyn, & Mr. Irving are staying at Wilderness. Mr. Irving called yesterday; he tells us they find the dowager Ly. Hardinge (who retains her title) an agreeable neighbour at Rochester. The neighbourhood will I believe be disappointed in their expectation of a Ball at Montreal this Christmas, & we hear of no festivities that usually mark this season of the year. Lord Amherst it is said intends to add considerably to his house next spring. The family do not come to Knole at present. Mrs. Petley has not been quite well lately, but hopes to attend the New Years Ball, to witness her *four sons* joining in the festive dance. Sir Alexander & Ly. Crichton returned from Mousley last week; the young ladies have been at Church but I have not seen any of the Family since my return. Mr. Engleheart drank tea with us on Saturday. I appeared in my new bonnet on Christmas day; I flatter myself it is both *handsome* & *becoming*. This neighbourhood has not quite escaped depredations; a short time since Mr. Cronk had the Donkey he purchased of my Mother together with 19 *rabbits* of his son's, stolen; and two rounds of beef were removed from Mr. Evelyn's larder by means of taking the tiles from the roof of the building. Mr. Wm. Streatfeild is gone to Nice to join his Brother & sister, & Frederick Streatfeild is returning from India very much out of health. . . . Frances Humphry."

On the 19th there came a letter from 10, Charlotte Street, Pimlico, written by Mr. Robert Hare to Mrs. Humphry. "My good friend and neighbour, Mrs. William Humphry," he says, "had I understand prepared you to expect an unfortunate result from the severe illness of her son William, and at her request I have the painful task to acquaint you that he expired at half past twelve this forenoon. Mr. White had seen him twice during yesterday and ordered a blister which failed in its object. Early this morning the poor Boy, amidst considerable suffering, vomited a large quantity of fetid black water, which proves to have been the contents of an abscess in the chest."

Mr. Hare was Mrs. Moody's brother-in-law. Very soon after this event, the widow married Mr. Hare.

"Seal, Feby. 14th, 1829.

My dear Julia, . . . We spent a very sociable pleasant day at the Grove last week with Mr. Nouaille's family. Mr. Whitehead was gone to Chatham to attend the Funeral of one of his brothers, who died about a fortnight ago. Poor man, we think him altered, but he appears cheered and amused by coming occasionally to play a game of chess with his old friends & neighbours. Julius Nouaille is in high spirits at the difficulties being removed to his Ordination, which is to take place by the Bishop of Chichester the 1st of March, & anticipates (if he can secure a small garden) that he shall be completely happy at Pevensy. What does Sir William think of the political proceedings? Poor Mrs. Nouaille is quite in despair. The change of Mr. [orn, ? Peel's] conduct appears to create general surprize & regret. . . . Frances Humphry."

Mrs. Nouaille felt most deeply on the Roman Catholic question, and the passing of the Roman Catholic Relief Bill must have been to her a severe blow.

"Seal, April 21st, 1829.

My dear Julia, . . . The Miss Crichtons called this morning to give us an account of the Ball, which was not so numerous as usual, altho' Lord & Lady Plymouth with the Montreal family honoured it with their presence & staid supper. Notwithstanding the number of Gentlemen present, from a want of introduction the young ladies had not so much dancing as they would have liked. The Miss Crichtons thought Mrs. Musgrave Brisco decidedly the Belle of the Evening; it was

a great disappointment to our Postern friends that Mr. & Mrs. Camac were prevented joining the party. My mother is delighted at the prospect of seeing you here. She attended Church last Sunday & experienced no inconvenience but a little fatigue in consequence. Lord Camden's Family, accompanied by Mr. Stewart, arrived at Wildernesse on Friday. They must all enjoy a little relaxation after discussing the important subject that has lately occupied the Public attention. We called on Miss Burton this Morning & had a most sociable pleasant visit ; she, as well as many of our Neighbours, anticipate gloomy results from the decision of the great National question in Parliament. I am very glad to hear our friend James [West] commences his professional duties with so much ability, & much wish we had an opportunity of hearing him. . . . Frances Humphry."

On the 19th June, Miss Humphry mentions that Mrs. W. Humphry, Richard and Julia had come to Seal for a visit ; she considered the latter "a very good little girl, of a most docile disposition." The donkey chaise was in frequent requisition. "We hear very indifferent accounts," she adds, "of Mrs. Henry Buttanshaw [Anna Woodgate] ; she has a fine little boy, but is suffering herself from a great depression of spirits."

The next letter describes visits to Fairlawn, Miss Adean and Mrs. Adamson.

"Seal, August 3rd, 1829.

My dear Julia, . . . Mrs. W. Humphry tells us she ascertained that her Pension will not be forfeited by marrying again. We represented to her the responsibility of the situation she will be placed in by marrying a man with 4 children ; she appears quite decided on the subject, & says if we knew the character of Mr. Hare, she is *sure* every objection would vanish, & has no doubt the connexion will prove advantageous to her children, & very much promote her own happiness. We sincerely hope this may prove the case, but cannot help considering it a most imprudent measure. Mr. Hare's salary is £500 a year & with perquisites amounts to six. My Mother received a letter from Mrs. Palmer yesterday, stating that, if quite convenient, herself with Mr. & Miss Palmer propose coming to us for a few days next Saturday evening. We shall be most happy to see them, & my Mother also wishes to consult with Mr. Palmer on matters of business ; she thinks it would be desirable under existing circumstances to dispose of the Property here, provided she can meet a purchaser on the same terms it was offered to Lords Camden & Plymouth. A social little party consisting of the Nouailles, Mr. Engleheart & ourselves partook our worthy Vicar's hospitality on a fine haunch of Ld. Camden's venison ten days ago ; a few days previous our Pastors met here to partake a neck of the same venison. . . . Mr. & Mrs. Rayden with their children have passed two nights at Mr. Nouaille's in their way to Hastings. Julius Nouaille appears much pleased with Sussex, & speaks in grateful terms of the kindness & hospitality he has recd at Broomham. Our furniture has lately undergone the *ceremony of immersion*, & the new carpet, which is very handsome, is laid down in the drawingroom, so that our house is in *its best attire*. Mrs. Lipscomb & her Infant are going on remarkably well ; the little girl is named Mary Cornwallis, after Mrs. Cornwallis who is to be a Sponsor. Lady Crawford offered her services on the same occasion ; they were however declined, in consequence of a similar offer from my Aunt Woodgate. . . . Frances Humphry."

"Aunt Woodgate" was, of course, Mrs. Woodgate of Riverhill, Mrs. Lipscomb's mother. The next letter describes the circumstances of Lady Camden's death :—

"Seal, 26th August, 1829.

My dear Julia, . . . The demise of poor Lady Camden took place at Bayham last Friday fortnight. Her state of health had been as well as usual till within two days preceding the event. It was a fortunate circumstance that Mr. Kelson & his daughter were staying in the house, in their way into Somersetshire. Recourse was had immediately to the best advice at Tunbridge Wells & London, but the

functions of Nature being altogether *exhausted*, the most eminent skill proved of no avail. All the family were assembled at Bayham. Altho' her ladyship's character was not endow'd with stirring & great qualities, nevertheless her uniform piety & the resignation she evinced under severe family affliction must render her memory dear to the recollection of her family. The funeral took place on the following Friday; it was conducted as privately as possible, Lord Camden & Lord Brecknock attending as principal mourners. Mr. Gower remained to console poor Lady Georgiana. The pulpit, the family pew & the chancel is hung with black cloth, the sombre appearance of which is somewhat relieved by their escutcheon of Arms painted on white sattin. The Family we understand are tolerably well & expected at Wilderness next Thursday. Fanny has written a few lines of enquiry & condolence to Lady Georgiana. I hope in her present affliction she has the support & comfort of some kind female relative or friend.

Mr. & Mrs. Palmer & their daughter really appeared to enjoy their *brief* visit into the country. They remained only from Saturday till the Tuesday succeeding. On the Monday we went over Knole, with which they expressed themselves much gratified in seeing a full-length portrait of the late young Duke, by Saunders. . . . We sincerely hope our friend James' dreams of Elysium will all be realized; remember us kindly to Julius Nouaille, I am glad Sir William thinks so favourably of his performance in the Church. Mrs. Nouaille & Philip drank tea with us on Friday. She intended yesterday going to Tunbridge to visit Mr. & Mrs. Knox, who are returned much benefited by their sojourn at Brighton. We were quite *astonished* to hear of Mr. & Mrs. Brisco's trip to France, I am sure you will be glad to see them again in Sussex. After a trip to Hastings & Tunbridge Wells, Mr. & Mrs. Hemming took us by surprise for one night on Sunday. . . . Maryanne Humphry."

The next letter is to Sir William Ashburnham:—

"Seal, Septbr. 3rd, 1829.

My dear Sir, . . . My Mother requests me to make her best acknowledgments for the kind & liberal present of game she received yesterday Morn'g; they arrived in excellent order, & prove most acceptable. The new Church at Tunbridge Wells is to be consecrated by the Bishop of Rochester to-day. Sir Charles Hardinge was appointed to Preach on the occasion, but is unfortunately prevented by a severe domestic affliction. His eldest daughter after a short illness died last week of a bilious fever, & another of the children (Emily) has for some time been in so precarious a state of health that her recovery is considered very doubtful. Sir Alexdr Crichton is still in Ireland; we are to dine at the Grove to-day to meet the Miss Atkins. We received a very kind note from Ly. Georgiana Pratt a few days ago, in which she states they are now tolerably well & endeavouring to exert themselves for the sake of each other, & she hopes bearing these severe afflictions as she ought. Mrs. West, Mr. & Mrs. Brisco favoured us with a call last week, & we afterwards met them at Mr. Nouaille's. Mr. & Mrs. Brisco are much pleased & gratified with their trip to France. They visited Callis, Boulogne & St. Omer. The little they have already seen appears to have given them an inclination to explore still further Foreign lands. The paper of yesterday states the marriages of Mr. Wm. Palmer & his sister to have taken place; I hope they may both be happy. I forgot to mention that yr friend Dr. Yates has built a very good but unornamented house at Penshurst, which Mrs. Allnutt says (with the Furniture) has cost him six thousand pounds. . . . Frances Humphry."

"Seal, Decr. 12th, 1829.

My dear Julia, . . . Thursday was the anniversary of our dear Mother's natal day, when Anne Nouaille & her brother Peter & Mr. Engleheart dined here to celebrate the event, & we had a very social pleasant meeting. . . . I am happy to tell you the purchase of the house at Tonbridge is at last completed; I have lately been a little engaged in correspondence with Mr. Palmer & my Uncle on the subject (*another reason* for not having written to you before). A letter from

my Uncle yesterday states that my Aunt Woodgate is much better, & he mentions his intention of passing a morning with us soon. Yesterday we dined at Wilderness. . . . Lady Georgiana took an opportunity of saying she had only been out twice to call on Ly. Amherst & Mrs. Evelyn & that one of her first visits would be to my Mother, previous to which she hoped we would call on her. Some days ago I received a letter from Mrs. Robert Hare giving a good account of all the children ; & she further adds that they are all so happy & comfortable together that for herself she has never any wish to leave home. Miss Jessy Crichton this morning brought my Mother a very pretty work-basket ornamented with her own drawings as a birthday remembrance. We have lately had numerous morning visitors ; yesterday Mrs. Randolph, accompanied by her youngest son. The Bride & Bridegroom do not return to Seven Oaks till after Christmas, when it is said they take up their abode with Mrs. Randolph. . . . Frances Humphry."

The following letter from Lord Camden accompanied a drawing of Mr. Humphry.

"Wilderness Park, Decr. 17th, 1829.

Dear Mrs. Humphry,

As we had been informed, some time ago, that it would be agreeable to you & to your Family to possess a Portrait of your late excellent Husband, I should instantly have complied with that very natural wish ; but the Book, in which that portrait and others were placed, having been mislaid and only recovered a few days ago, I have not been before able to present the Drawing to you. I should only have parted with the Picture to his Family, esteeming as I did his benevolent mind, his respectable conduct and his clerical attainment. I beg you to believe me, dear Mrs. Humphry, Yours most sincerely,

Camden."

The next letter was written in 1830 to Lady Ashburnham. Having filled two pages with minute description of the health of different members of the family, Miss Humphry proceeds :—

"Seal, Jany. 13th, 1830.

. . . I must now give you a little of our gaiety. Ly. Crichton called Wednesday morning, & gave *her sanction* for my attending Mrs. Harenc's dance with Maryanne in the evening, & I have not for some time witnessed so festive a scene. Nothing could exceed the attention of Mrs. & Miss Harenc to their guests, which amounted to about 120. Seven rooms were thrown open & a diversity of amusements offered, that each might select that suited to their taste ; the Quadrille, the Waltz & the Gallapade in succession gave variety to the dancing, & the *evolutions* of the young ladies were very amusing to the spectators. The whole neighbourhood (with the exception of the Nobility) were present, & several families from a distance. Mr. & Mrs. Bisco, 4 daughters & 2 sons [Harencs] were of the party ; their youngest daughter made her first appearance in public this Winter, a very pretty girl & much admired. Miss Golightly appeared very glad to meet me ; she made many enquiries respecting Hastings & said how much she *envied* me the prospect of seeing that delightful place again. Mrs. Petley, after partaking all the gaiety of the season, is looking remarkably well. I am sure Sir William laments the death of Sir Thomas Lawrence whose Portraits have been so justly admired, & considered *only* surpassed by those of Vandyke. We hear the eldest son of our old friend Mrs. Ilbert is to be united to one of the Miss Found's, & that it is an engagement entirely approved by the respective families. Mrs. Nouaille was much gratified to see her son Julius had acquitted himself in so creditable a manner at his examination. He came up on Monday for the week, looking quite well, & so well satisfied with Pevensy that he hopes never to change it for another *curacy*. Maryanne is gone to dine (& sleep) at Mr. Nouaille's to meet a party at dinner. On Friday last we partook the periodical hospitality of our worthy Vicar, and a very social pleasant meeting we had, with Mr. Nouaille's family & our clerical friends ; & on Monday the Baroness Chandoir, Miss M. Crichton, their brother Constantine, Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille & Anne & our

Pastors partook of some Christmas *cheer* here, & I am happy to say my Mother is in no respect the worse for her exertion. The Baroness Chandoir is a most intelligent, pleasing woman, & her appearance & manner are generally admired. We hear her diamonds at the New Years Ball were very splendid. They were purchased by the Baron's father, & formerly belonged to the Queen of Poland. We are happy to hear a good account of Mrs. Musgrave Brisco's health, & that she appears to so much advantage at the head of her table."

The Baroness Chandoir was formerly a Miss Crichton, and her husband was a Polish nobleman. January and February, as we are informed by the next letter, were signalized by intense cold. After such a long and almost ceaseless snow everyone was looking for a "renovation of Nature."

"Seal, Feby. 6th, 1830.

My dear Julia, . . . The depressed state of Agriculture at the present period is indeed truly alarming. Surely Ministers will devise some measures for the relief of the country. We lament that this operates so disadvantageously to the interest of Sir William, & fervently hope the prudent measures he has decided on adopting (altho' they may occasion temporary inconvenience) will ultimately produce comfort and happiness to you both. Our *periodical assize* is necessarily deferred on account of the weather. Whenever *this has taken place* I hope to take advantage of the first favourable change that occurs for making you a visit. Like yourselves we have for some time been nearly confined to the house, the state of the weather having debarred intercourse except with our very near neighbours. On Thursday we walked to Greatness when Mrs. Nouaille also had taken advantage of the *gleam of sunshine* & was gone to Seven Oaks. Peter drank tea with us in the evening; & states that his sister Anne is quite well & very happy at Hastings. We dined at Wilderness last week with the Baroness Chandoir, Miss Jessie Crichton & Mr. Engleheart, & passed a very pleasant evening with *less form than usual*. In the evening some fine prints from the Cartoons of Raffelle, & beautiful drawings of Lady Farnborough's were produced, which amused & gratified all the party. Ld. Camden & Ld. Brecknock are gone to Town to attend Parliament. Ly. Georgiana (with her little nephew) remain quietly at Wilderness for the present. Mr. Engleheart has decided on relinquishing his curacy in the spring; after exploring Holland (with his sister & a female cousin out of health) he means to pass two months at Aix-la-Chapelle in the hope of deriving benefit from the Baths of that place. We shall all regret his departure; for in addition to the exemplary discharge of his professional duties, he has been a most agreeable & I may add improving Neighbour. We are rather surprized at not having received any intelligence from Mrs. Robert Hare since her letter stating the illness of poor little Julia. Mr. Willard's nephew Mr. Cole has lately lost his wife. She was staying with a friend in Town, & on Saturday last he received intelligence that she was seriously ill; he immediately hastened to her & melancholy to relate she died of apoplexy before his arrival. Her remains are brought to Sevenoaks and are to be interred there to-day. Capt. & Mrs. Randolph are returned to Sevenoaks; we met them walking a few days ago, looking very well & very happy. The weather has hitherto prevented our calling on them. The severity of the winter, added to the want of employment, causes great distress among the poor, in consequence of which a second subscription has been made for their relief, to which Ld. Camden has kindly contributed ten pounds. A collection has likewise been made for Kemping, as the inhabitants are too poor to be able to afford much assistance themselves. . . . Frances Humphry."

On the 13th April, 1830, Miss Humphry writes again:—

" . . . Mr. & Mrs. Wharton arrived at the Grove yesterday, & come to us for two nights on Thursday, as Mr. Wharton's Sunday duty in Town will not permit a longer absence. My Mother did not feel quite well on Sunday & was much disappointed that she was prevented attending Church. Mr. Engleheart's earnest

exhortations appear to be successful, as notwithstanding the state of the weather we had a full congregation and 87 communicants at the Sacrament. Lord Camden & Lord Brecknock have been at Bath ; Lady Georgiana came to Wilderness the early part of last week. She called on us a few days ago, & appears rejoiced to return to the country. Little Julia is very well, & very happy here ; she is a child of so amiable & engaging a disposition that she is a great favourite with us all. The Baroness Chandoir leaves England early next month ; it must occasion her family a severe pang, the parting for so distant a separation."

The Baroness was to start for Petersburg in June, where Sir Alexander would resign her to the care of her husband. Mr. Robertson, at that period, was painting her portrait in half length miniature of large size. Mr. Engleheart was succeeded by the Stammers ; they had travelled much on the continent, and had lived at Paris and Geneva.

"Seal, May 14th, 1830.

My dear Julia, . . . Captn. Streatfeild tells us Hever Castle, together with property to the amount of £7000 per annum, has lately devolved to an old lady of the name of Waldo, a sister of the late Sir Timothy Waldo, who intends to repair & restore it precisely to the state it was in at the time of Henry the 8th, & hopes to see her nephew & heir established there during her life. Mr. Lipscomb tell us, when the Church in the Weald was given him, it was stipulated he was to take the duty at the Chapel at Riverhead whenever it was erected without any additional emolument. Mr. Wharton is acquainted with the Bishop of Peterborough, & I learn from him that his patronage is very small, having only two good livings in his gift, the rest being scarcely equal to curacies, & with two sons in the Church it may naturally be supposed they will succeed to these should they become vacant. Under these circumstances I fear our friend James has no chance of preferment from that quarter. Mr. Lambard's family are at Hastings ; & Mrs. Burton & Miss Clements are either gone or going there shortly, for the benefit of warm bathing. We have not yet been able to meet with a Poney or donkey ; Mr. Peter Nouaille is occasionally so obliging to accomodate us with the loan of his, & this morning Julia & myself drove over to Riverhead to call on Mrs. Petley. . . . Frances Humphry."

The next letter describes Miss Humphry's visit to Town. She attended the Italian Opera, the Zoological Gardens, the exhibition of Lawrence's paintings, and other matters of public interest ; but the account is too long for insertion.

"Seal, June 6th, 1830.

My dear Julia, I fully intended writing to you before I went to Town, but my Mother's tenant Mr. Waterhouse *favoured* us with his company for the whole morning the preceding Saturday & defeated my intention. Yesterday week I took my flight to the Metropolis, & after a pleasant sojourn returned on Saturday evening, & had the happiness of finding my dear Mother quite well. Anne Nouaille had very kindly passed the whole interval of my absence at Seal, & little Julia had realized her promise in attentions to her Grandmamma. Mr. & Mrs. Hare did all in their power for my accomodation & amusement ; he is a sensible, pleasant man, & appears much attached to his wife, & very fond of all the children. . . . I met Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Woodgate in Town, & passed some time with them at the British Institution. Captn. & Mrs. Hardinge are staying with Major Bradford. . . . Frances Humphry."

Waterhouse, as might be conjectured, desired that his rent should be reduced. Meanwhile Maryanne Humphry, under the advice of Sir Alexander Crichton, was again staying at Mrs. Day's house at Brighton. Unfortunately, one of the inmates was "a lady whose *unusual* and *tremendous* voice affects her nerves so much, that she [Maryanne] was frequently obliged to seclude herself in the retirement of her own room," and eventually it was found necessary to remove to another house altogether.

“ Seal, June 26th, 1830.

My dear Julia, . . . Mrs. West & Mrs. Brisco called on us a fortnight ago, when Mrs. West gave Julia & myself a very kind invitation to join a large family party at the Postern on Tuesday last, to celebrate the anniversary of her birthday, which we accepted, & passed a most agreeable day. It was also the day of the annual visitation of the Skinners at Tonbridge School, & in the afternoon the party assembled there, & afterwards went to Church & heard some beautiful singing & music by performers from the Chapel Royal, brought to Tonbridge by the Skinners for the occasion. I was quite gratified in the opportunity of seeing so many relatives & friends. We called at Dryhill when Alicia gratified me with a sight of her paintings. I admire them exceedingly, & think Mrs. Cook's style far superior to any thing of the kind I have seen. At the Postern we met Mr. & Mrs. Brisco, the Allnutts, Stephen Woodgates, Nouailles &c. Mrs. Brisco is looking very delicate, & says she was not well during her stay in Town, but feels quite renovated by inhaling a little of the Postern air. Sir Henry Hardinge has obtained a Cadetship for Charles Woodgate, & he is shortly to proceed to India. Richard came to us for his holidays yesterday week; he had a bad cold on his arrival, but is now quite well & enjoys himself exceedingly. Our youthful companions occupy a good deal of our time and attention. . . . Mr. & Mrs. Lipscomb called a few days ago; they purpose going to Hastings for a month to give their children a little bathing. Mrs. Burton & Miss Clements returned sooner than they intended, in consequence of the increased illness of Miss Clements, whose health is rapidly sinking, & it is thought she cannot long survive. Anne Nouaille has been passing a week at the Postern to meet her cousin Mrs. Brisco, & returns home to-morrow. Mrs. Brisco hopes to be settled in her new abode (to which she is looking forward with much pleasure) by the end of this month. . . . Frances Humphry.”

The next letter, dated 15th August, is quite short. Miss Humphry mentions having met Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Woodgate, two of their young people, the Nouailles, and others, at an evening party given by the Miss Palmers; also that the Wests had called on them, together with Mrs. Brisco who “was looking as interesting and pretty at usual.”

In August Mrs. Humphry was very seriously ill; Lady Ashburnham was summoned to her side, but the danger passed off. Sir William subsequently joined the circle at Seal for a few days. After the departure of the Ashburnhams, Mrs. Nouaille did all in her power for Mrs. Humphry. “Nothing,” writes Miss Humphry, “can exceed Mrs. Nouaille's kindness. She goes home occasionally of a night and returns the following morning. On Sunday she leaves us, and I hope we shall contrive to go on tolerably well till your arrival.”

Maryanne meanwhile was still at Brighton, making no progress in her health.

“ Seal, Novr. 13th, 1830.

My dear Julia, . . . It was a great satisfaction to hear of your safe arrival at Broomham, altho' we cannot feel quite free from apprehension at finding incendiary proceedings are taking place so near you. When will this calamitous destruction of property cease! The country altogether appears in a most alarming state, and the disappointment of the public on the postponement of their Majesty's visit to the city was very unfortunate at this juncture; unless Ministers were in possession of circumstances that have not transpired to the public, surely the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel if necessary might have absented themselves on the occasion, without risking the popularity of his Majesty in the present moment of general excitement. . . . The day you left us I received a beautiful bouquet of Dahlias from Lady Georgiana Pratt, accompanied with an invitation to dine with her the following day. I accordingly went, & passed a very pleasant evening with Sir A. Lady & two Miss Crichtons. Lady Georgiana's spirits are much improved, and *the honours* of the house on that day devolving solely on herself (Ld. Camden & Ld. Brecknock both being absent) she exerted herself more than usual. She has

since called, and promises to bring her little nephew some morning to introduce to my Mother. On Thursday last I dined with our friends at Greatness, & met Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Palmer, the Miss Palmers, & Sir A. & Ly. Crichton. Mrs. Story & the Miss Palmers called a few days after you left us, & were much disappointed to find you gone. They gave us a pressing invitation to visit them in Seymour Street, and Mrs. Story said if she could prevail with my Mother (*which she thought she could if I would second her wishes*) *she would herself come down to fetch her, & would devote herself entirely to her as long as she was disposed to favour them with her company.* Mr. Stephen Woodgate & his son Arthur called on us a few days ago; all are well at Pembury. Was the newspaper correct in stating a meeting had been convened by the labourers at Guestling (for an increase of wages) on Monday last? and did Mr. John Ashburnham as there reported (under the appellation of the Parson) accede to the proposal of a reduction of his Tithes from eight to three hundred a year? . . . Frances Humphry."

"Seal, Novr. 18th, 1830.

My dear Julia, . . . I am to dine with our friends at Greatness to-day to meet Mrs. Allnutt & Mr. & Mrs. West, and Mrs. Nouaille has engaged they shall spend the evening with my Mother. In consequence of the heavy loss Sir A. and Lady Crichton have sustained on their West India property, they say it is absolutely necessary to contract their expenses, and I grieve to tell you they have made up their minds (altho' with extreme reluctance) to quit the Grove next Spring. I need not say how much we regret the prospect of losing such agreeable and truly valuable neighbours, in which feeling I am sure the neighbours will generally participate. I received a long letter from Mrs. Hare this morning; poor Richard has been suffering from his back but is now a little better; Frederick is returned to Hertford, and Julia and Ozias are quite well. The report of Mr. Wilgress' intended marriage (f) is confirmed, and Mrs. Lightfoot tells us he intends leaving Sevenoaks. We are very anxious to hear from you, and fervently hope the enormities have ceased, and that peace and quiet are restored to your neighbourhood. . . . Frances Humphry."

"Seal, Decr. 27th, 1830.

My dear Julia, . . . Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille & Anne have lately been passing a few days in Town with Mr. & Mrs. William Woodgate. They dined one day with Mrs. Rudge, & visited Mrs. Pole, and several of their friends. Mrs. Nouaille is *come out quite smart* in a very pretty velvet Bonnet purchased in Town. Ninety eight children of the National School received Rewards on Thursday last; the day was so cold that Miss Jessy Crichton, Mr. Stamer & myself were the only members of the committee present. Lady Georgiana Pratt is still rather an invalid, and by the advice of Sir Alexr. Crichton does not leave the house during the cold weather. Lord Brecknock's friend Mr. Pratt assisted in the service on Christmas day; there was a full attendance of the gentry, but I never saw so few of the lower classes on a similar occasion. Ld. Camden is giving soup to the poor of Seal and Kemping twice a week & to-morrow Ld. Plymouth's benefaction of beef is to be distributed, a most seasonable relief at this inclement period. Lady Aboyne has lately been passing six weeks at St. Leonards, and liked the place so well that she was induced to remain much longer than she originally intended. Mr. & Mrs. Edward Rudge are passing the winter at Hastings. Lord Marsham & Mr. Harenc are the Stewards for the New year's ball, & therefore I conclude it will be well attended. Mrs. Nouaille has kindly invited me to go with them which I have declined, as amusements of this description cease to possess any attractions for me. Constantine Crichton is come home for the Christmas vacation much grown, and a very intelligent promising young man. A letter from Mr. Waterhouse *filled with complaints* arrived a few days ago. He has not paid his rent and wishes for a little further indulgence. He thankfully receives the deduction my Mother proposed to make, and *hopes the good*

(f) The Rev. J. T. Wilgress married in 1831 Arabella Streatfeild of Chidingstone. Mrs. Lightfoot was the daughter of Thomas Streatfeild of Sevenoaks.

feelings of his landlady, when he comes, will allow him what is reasonable to meet the times and employ the poor, who press so heavy on the land that for the present quarter he is paying 4s. in the pound, with a prospect of being still higher the next quarter. He states that all the farms adjoining the Moat, with one exception, are given up and on the owners hands. . . . Frances Humphry."

By March, 1831, Maryanne Humphry had removed from Brighton to Hastings, without having derived much benefit from the treatment.

" Seal, March 17th, 1831.

In compliance with your wishes, my dear Mother has sat again for her picture, and by most of those who have seen it the preference is given to the one intended for *you*, although I must candidly add I prefer *my own*. Mr. Hazlehurst is considered fortunate in his likenesses. The Miss Crichtons are endeavouring to persuade Sir Alexander and Lady Crichton to gratify them, and I believe they have consented to be *represented* by Mr. Hazlehurst. Mr. & Mrs. West dined at Mr. Nouaille's yesterday, and all the party very kindly drank tea with my Mother in the evening, and she enjoyed her pool of Quadrille. Anne Nouaille is passing a few days with Mrs. Allnutt, who has been very unwell with a bilious attack since her return from Town. The neighbourhood are lamenting the loss of Mrs. Burton who died on Thursday last. She was a most excellent person, a kind and liberal benefactress to the poor, and so friendly and benevolent to all her neighbours that she is universally regretted by all classes. Sir Francis Burton arrived some days previous to the event, and does not leave the Vine till after the Funeral, which is to take place at Sevenoaks on Tuesday next. . . . Miss Clements left Sevenoaks on Wednesday morning. Mrs. Petley moved into her new abode last week; after several fruitless attempts, Mrs. Nouaille has seen her. At first her spirits were much depressed; she soon however recovered her composure, and appeared relieved that the first interview was over. Patrick [Petley] has obtained his commission, and is gone to Town to wait upon Lord Hill. What does Sir William think of the Ministers' measures of Parliamentary Reform? We received a packet of letters by Mr. Phillip Nouaille from our young friends in Charlotte Street last week; they are all well, and I believe we shall soon see some of them in the country. I am *longing* to begin gardening but the ground is too wet at present. . . . Frances Humphry."

The removal of Mrs. Petley, formerly Ellen Woodgate of Riverhill, was made necessary by the death of her husband in 1830. Probably one of the portraits referred to is now at Broomham. A propos of this, the following anecdote is related of Mrs. Humphry. A gentleman, on being shown a miniature painting of her, done late in life, and supposing that the colouring of her face was artificial, expressed his admiration of the portrait but considered it a pity that a lady of her advanced age, and a clergyman's widow, should deem it necessary to paint. Not long afterwards he made Mrs. Humphry's acquaintance and played a rubber of whist with her; so intense was the interest she manifested in the game that the excitement caused her colour to change, which amply convinced her critic that he had been mistaken in his surmise.

Many of the Humphry miniatures and paintings passed eventually to Mrs. Humphry's grand-daughter Julia Humphry, who married Mr. Tucker of Bootle near Liverpool and predeceased him.

" Seal, March 26th, 1831.

My dear Julia, . . . On Monday next, Warton's Virgil together with my Mother's picture shall be forwarded by a Hastings Coach to Broomham, and we shall be happy to find Mr. Hazlehurst's production meets the approbation of Sir William and yourself. My dear Mother has kindly consented to sit again, as I think Maryanne will be gratified to possess a likeness. Do not mention my intention to her, as I hope it may prove an agreeable surprise on her return home. Mr. Engleheart has been passing three days at the Grove. I dined there on Wednesday.

He made many enquiries after Sir William and yourself and hoped Sir William was proceeding with the translation of Virgil, a work he said evincing so much talent that he should be very sorry if it was not completed. . . . We hear Mrs. Burton has left her place at the Vine to her brother Sir Francis Burton for his life, and after him to his second son; to each of her servants ten pounds for mourning and a year's wages, in addition to different sums proportioned to their length of service. I passed an hour with Mrs. Brisco yesterday at Greatness, who is sitting for her picture. She is to come up again on Monday when Mrs. West and herself are to lunch here. One of Mr. Hazlehurst's most successful efforts is Julius Nouaille, which is as like as possible. My Mother hopes he will not have left the neighbourhood before you next visit us, as she has quite set her mind on having your picture. Dr. & Mrs. Fitton were of the party at the Grove on Wednesday; very agreeable people. They leave Brasted Place at Midsummer, and are to be succeeded by Mrs. Douglas and the Miss Latewards. Mr. Wilgress was married at Chidingstone on Tuesday last. We hear the number of candidates for Sevenoaks school amounted to *fifty three*. . . . The yeomanry cavalry went out for the first time on Monday last; Lord Holmsdale regaled them with a dinner at Sevenoaks, which was a most agreeable commencement to their services. It is said that Baliffs are put into Mereworth Castle; all the effects, including the books & fine Pictures, are advertised for sale by auction next month. I think you remember Mrs. Polhill (formerly Miss May of Hadlow); she is just married again to the eldest son of Sir William Twisden. I should imagine *Plutus* must have influenced the gentleman's choice, as she is stated to be old enough for his mother. Anne Nouaille has been at the Postern the last ten days, & returns home on Monday. . . . Frances Humphry."

" Seal, April 15th, 1831.

My dear Julia, . . . We were happy to find by your last kind letter that Mr. Hazlehurst's production met the approbation of Sir William and yourself. Your observations are so judicious that I shall suggest them to the Artist when my Mother sits again, which I hope she will be able to do next week. . . . Mr. Curteis of Sevenoaks died last week, a happy release after a most distressing illness of some months. I called on Lady Georgiana Pratt a few days ago and found her a little better. She is delighted to be in the country, was in very good spirits and hoped I would soon visit her again. Lord Camden called here yesterday; he gives a delightful account of his sister Lady Londonderry, who he says is residing at Battersea, has her house constantly filled with Grand-children, and that it is her delight to promote and as far as she can partake their amusements. The Easter Ball was very well attended. I was surprised to hear that Mr. & Mrs. James West and Alicia were there. Mrs. Brisco (in a pink toque and new white silk dress from Madame Jerando's) and Mrs. George Norman (formerly the pretty Miss Stone of Chislehurst) were considered the *bells* of the evening, *rather mortifying to the young ladies to be eclipsed by matrons*. Maria Allnutt went with Mrs. Nouaille and Anne; she called here the following morning. Mr. & Mrs. Streatfeild of Chiddingstone are at Hastings for three weeks, and are shortly to be joined by Mr. & Mrs. Wilgress. Mr. John Thompson made us a sociable visit yesterday, when I *delighted* him by reading Sir William's verses, which he admired exceedingly. . . . Frances Humphry."

" Seal, April 25th, 1831.

My dear Julia, . . . I have been sadly remiss in not having written to thank Sir William for his very kind and most acceptable contribution of Poetry, a large proportion of which he will see inserted in my album. The Humphry arms are a great ornament to my book, and the execution far exceeding my expectation; and I can only repeat that I am very grateful to Sir William for all the trouble he has so kindly taken to promote my amusement. We had a letter from Mrs. Hare last week, in which she states that Mr. Hare will not be able to leave Town till the month of June, or perhaps later, but hopes before that time I shall be able to pass a little

time with her in Town. You will be concerned to hear that she appears to think poor little Julia in a delicate state of health. She has lately spent five weeks with Lady Turner, who has a daughter nearly the same age and much attached to Julia. Sir Francis Burton intends to lett the house at the Vine ready furnished, with six acres of land, rent 250 pds a year, and the tenant to pay all taxes. The terms are considered high, but the beauty of the place will probably tempt some person where money is not an object. Mr. Waterhouse was here on Saturday to pay his rent. I was glad to hear him say a little improvement had taken place in the price of timber ; it is now selling from seven to ten pound a load. . . . Frances Humphry."

" Seal, May 5th, 1831.

My dear Julia, . . . Lady Georgiana Pratt called here a few days ago, and I am to drink tea with her to-morrow evening. Party spirit has placed the country in a state of great excitement. An illumination took place at Sevenoaks last week, when the windows of all the houses not illuminated were shivered to atoms. There was one here the following evening, and to save ours from a similar fate, we *most reluctantly* put up a *solitary* light in each window ; poor Mr. Whitehead, who was not aware any thing of the kind was intended, had 15 panes broke. The Miss Yates favoured us with a visit yesterday. Miss Eliza is shortly to come again, for me to accompany her to the Kemping hills in search of the *Orchus tribe*. The Nouailles are all well ; Miss Austen (who formerly resided at Tonbridge) is passing a week at Greatness. I was anxious to give you a line, but you will excuse a long letter, having been occupied during the morning in endeavouring to amuse my Mother while she was sitting to Mr. Hazlehurst, who is leaving the neighbourhood in the course of a few days. . . . Frances Humphry."

Meanwhile Maryanne Humphry had returned to Seal. Numberless remedies had been tried, all equally unavailing. Each change simply aggravated her craving for further change. By the advice of Sir Alexander Crichton, the opinion of Sir George Tuthill was taken ; he considered that only by the exercise of firm control over the patient could any good be accomplished. " Whatever plan be really good for her," he said, " will have no chance of success unless it be strictly persisted in without being made in any degree subservient to her vaccinations, which are a part of her malady. They are likely to be made inveterate by being gratified." In June, Richard and Julia Humphry visited Seal, and their society amused and interested her for the time being.

Nor was this the only difficulty with which Miss Humphry was obliged to contend. Waterhouse made frequent efforts to obtain a reduction of his rent ; and they were obliged to accede to his demands, under the advice of Mr. Thompson, who considered it unlikely that another tenant could be found, even at the reduced rent.

" Seal, July 25th, 1831.

My dear Julia, . . . Maryanne continues much the same ; the restlessness of her mind is not to be described. She is still anxious to consult Dr. James Johnson, and from the perusal of his work is so impressed with the benefits arising from continental travelling that she says she is sure no other plan can afford her a prospect of relief. She has promised to consult with Lady Crichton (in the absence of Sir Alexander) on the subject previous to taking any measures for carrying this plan into effect. Richard's holidays expired on Saturday, and he left us rather reluctantly on that morning ; at the request of Mrs. Hare, Julia remains untill herself & Mr. Hare visit the country. She is a most sweet tempered affectionate child, I only wish she had the advantage of a little more regular instruction than I fear she is in the habit of receiving. . . Lady Aboyne's youngest son Mr. Francis Gordon has relinquished his intention of taking Orders, for the army, and his friends have obtained him a commission in the Guards, which from his habits and manners appears a profession far more suited to him than the church. You have probably heard

from Anne Nouaille that Capt'n. & Mrs. Thomas are returned to England; they have disposed of their house and property at Brussels and intend making Bath the place of their future abode. They are to make our friends at Greatness a visit the beginning of next month, and we shall all be most happy to see them again. Miss Amherst, the last surviving aunt of Mr. Round, died at Stone Pitts after a short illness last week. Lord Tenterden and the Judges together with a large party of gentlemen dined at Wildernesse yesterday in their way to Maidstone. I am not surprised that Mrs. Brisco is unwilling to part with her cheerful companion [Anne Nouaille], whose society is much missed in her little home circle. . . . Frances Humphry."

In July, 1832, Mrs. Humphry had a most dangerous attack, from which she was not expected to recover. All the doctors abandoned hope; but, thanks to the skill of Sir Alexander Crichton, and her own wonderful constitution, she was completely restored to her former state. Maryanne Humphry had been living at Canonbury with an attendant, and returned to Seal about August, whence she despatched the following letter to her sister on the 24th November:—

"My dear Julia, . . . From the accounts in the Paper, the royal visitors are making Hastings very gay. The Herald states they attended St. Mary's on Sunday & that Mr. West preached an excellent sermon. The Papers have informed you of the demise of poor Lady Aboyne. The funeral takes place this day at Barsted; I believe the remains of the late Countess Liverpool were interred at this place. *It is rumoured* in the village that the Domesticks have received orders to quit & that the establishment is immediately to be broken up. Lady Catherine Cavendish was with her sister, & Mr. F. Gordon came down on Saturday. The loss of so estimable a character must be severely felt by her family, & the parish will lose the benefit of her exemplary example, as well as the beneficence she was at all times ready to exercise. Poor Mr. Whitehead's attacks have been more severe of late; his sister Mrs. Wade has been passing the last week with him. Mr. J. Thompson called here Wednesday. The absence of his curate at this time is unfortunate; last Sunday the congregation were assembled for near an hour before any clergyman made his appearance. At last a gentleman arrived, but not before some of the congregation had left the church. I have not learnt his name, but he recognized Mr. Stewart, with whom he had formerly been at School."

"Seal, December 3rd, 1831.

My dear Julia, . . . Sir Henry Hardinge called on my Mother during his stay at Wildernesse. Mr. Engleheart has lately passed a few days at Greatness; he drank tea with us, accompanied by Mr. Nouaille's family, and called twice upon my Mother. He is still residing with his brother at Bedford. After Christmas he is to spend a few days here, when we hope he may have the pleasure of meeting Sir William & Lady Ashburnham. Mr. Curteis intends taking down the Rectory house immediately, which obliges Mr. Nixon to seek for another habitation, and Mr. Nouaille has kindly accomodated him with the use of Greatness till April. Mrs. Allnutt came up the beginning of the week to buy *bargains* at Mrs. Wells' sale. We have lately dined with Mr. & Mrs. Stamer & met Mr. Alison, the curate of Otford, a most unsophisticated young man, full of ardour in his profession, and *the height of whose ambition* is to be curate of Seal. I also passed a pleasant evening at Greatness the beginning of the week. Mr. Lambard called upon my Mother yesterday and was very agreeable. I am sorry you had not a better day for your visit to Coghurst [the Briscos'], but I am sure it passed pleasantly with your friends. . . . Frances Humphry."

"Seal, Novr. 30th, 1832.

My dear Julia, . . . Our friends at Greatness have passed two nights at the Postern to take leave of their friends previous to their departure for Hastings. Mrs. Nouaille was so kind to visit my Mother immediately after her return home. She called at Bounds to see Mrs. Stephen Woodgate and Jane who are still there,

and you will be happy to hear Jane is so much better that every hope is entertained of her recovery. Lady Hardinge shewed Mrs. Nouaille over the house which is ornamented with a number of family portraits; the one she most admired was an excellent likeness of Sir Henry invested with all his orders. We hear poor Dr. Knox is deeply affected at the loss of his eldest son, which melancholy event took place at Tonbridge on Sunday last after an illness of only five weeks. Julia is a very tractable good little girl and her innocent mirth enlivens us all. She is working in Baskets under the instructions of her aunt Maryanne and is much pleased with the employment. I am sorry to tell you the spirit of incendiarism has again appeared in this neighbourhood. On Saturday night last all the produce of a Farmer at Otford was consumed by fire, the same person who experienced a similar loss two years ago, and last night there was a fire at Shoreham that consumed all the produce of a little Farmer (which was not insured) and the poor man sustains a loss of near a hundred pounds. In addition to these there have been other fires in different parts of the neighbourhood, all supposed to be the work of incendiaries; no discovery has yet been made, but it is to be hoped the miscreants will not elude justice. Mrs. Nouaille is coming this evening in the hope of finding my Mother well enough to derive amusement from a little game of cards. Mrs. Brisco informs her friends that Sir Francis Burdett has taken a house at Hastings for the winter. . . . Frances Humphry."

In October, 1833, Maryanne Humphry went to reside at 9, Alexander Square, Brompton. A letter from her of this date mentions a chance meeting with the James Wests, who had taken up their abode at Tonbridge Castle; and she expresses her regret to hear of the precarious state of health of Francis Woodgate of Ferox Hall.

The next letter from Miss Humphry, in December, 1833, was written to make arrangements for the Ashburnhams' approaching visit. She mentions that the Judges had spent two days at Wilderness on their way to Maidstone, and occupied three pews in Church. "Last week," she adds, "Mrs. Nouaille received a letter from her friend Mrs. William Thomas communicating the death of poor Col. Thomas after a month's illness. What a happy circumstance that his brother was with him; his presence must also prove a comfort and protection to the widow and daughters in a foreign land." Maryanne Humphry was to come down from London for a week to complete the family circle. The former extended their stay till February.

The letters of this period refer almost entirely to the health of Mrs. Humphry, who was in a very feeble state. Sometimes there are little items of general news; for instance, on 1st March, 1834, Miss Humphry writes:—

"Poor Mrs. Streatfeild was out in her little open carriage a short time previous to her decease. Her illness was only of a few days duration. Few persons have evinced so much enjoyment from an advanced period of life, which continued to the last. You have probably seen by the papers the death of Mr. Lane. Poor young man! His career furnishes a melancholy instance of how inadequate are the gifts of fortune to procure happiness;" and again on the 31st March:

"I was gratified by the receipt of a letter from our friend Mrs. Palliser last week, written in her usual affectionate strain. Her four children are all well and promising. She hopes to see her brother Richard this morning, which will be a great happiness, for excepting a few hours visit from her cousin John Papillon she has not seen any of her family or relatives since her marriage. She says she often thinks of Seal and the many happy days she spent in our society, and begs me to inform her of every thing relating to myself and both my dear sisters. Lady Georgina Pratt has been passing ten days at Hastings. Miss Rush is passing a fortnight at Greatness; she is much improved in appearance, and a very pleasing girl. She tells me Mr. Rush has the prospect of changing his living in Leicestershire for that of Hollington, which will be most desirable to him if it can be accomplished.

Ann Nouaille and her young friend are going this evening with Mr. Curteis to the Sevenoaks ball. Sir Alexander Crichton and his family take their departure for Cheltenham the 15th of April, where they propose to remain for three months. Our partnership in the Paper ends with their departure, which occurs at the expiration of a quarter."

"Seal, July 26th, 1834.

My dear Julia, . . . Mrs. Hare and Ozias passed a few days with us last week. Mrs. Hare is looking remarkably well and in her usual good spirits; Ozias is much grown and improved and altogether a very nice boy. I talked over with Mrs. Hare the future prospects of her sons. For the two younger ones she thinks there will be no difficulty; Richard has expressed a wish to be a *Tobacconist* [*i.e.*, a tobacco planter in the West Indies], and if nothing more eligible offers, she thinks he will be inclined to try that line of business. I asked if through the interest of Mr. Hare it would be possible to get him in as a clerk at Coutts'. She says they are convinced his health is unequal to constant occupation at the desk, added to which the responsibility is so great that Mr. Hare would not like to make himself answerable. Our friends at the Grove have lately been very obliging in supplying us with the morning Herald, therefore there is no occasion to trouble Sir William to send his paper longer. Pray make my grateful thanks to him for this, and the many instances in which he has so kindly promoted our gratification and amusement. Mr. & Mrs. West passed the day at Greatness on Wednesday last. Mrs. West walked from thence and sat an hour with us; she tells us Mr. and Mrs. Brisco are quite well and proceeding on their excursion to the northward. Mrs. Brisco, to whom the scenery is new, is much pleased with Matlock and the Derbyshire spars; they purpose going by the Rail road from Manchester to Liverpool, and after visiting the Lakes to return by Yorkshire. Mr. Ponton and Mrs. Willis have taken Mr. Claridge's house at Sevenoaks for the three ensuing months. Lord and Lady Holmsdale, quite unattended, walked to Riverhead Church on Sunday last. I hear the bride (who is considered by no means handsome) was attired in a slightly tinged french white silk Pelisse. . . . Is it correct that Mr. Herbert Curteis is the *real* purchaser of Sir William's Winchelsea property? . . . Frances Humphry."

To this period the following letter must be assigned :

"Charlotte Street, December 11th.

My dear Miss Humphry.

Your nephew Richard being now in his 17th year, which he will have completed in March next, I am sure you will excuse his Mother in soliciting your kind offices in endeavouring to get him appointed to some situation for his future support. You are aware that the deformity in his Back precludes him from the pursuit of any muscular employment or any other where a commanding appearance is requisite; yet I am told such a defect is not considered an objection in official duties of the Desk, for which indeed his last three years education at the Pimlico branch of King's College seems to have well qualified him. Your very excellent and noble friend Earl Camden having heretofore so kindly bestowed his patronage on my late Husband, it has occurred to me that as Teller of the Exchequer his Lordship may still have it in his power, in case of a vacancy happening, to extend a similar kindness to his eldest surviving son. I should therefore feel most grateful if you would do me the favour of speaking to his Lordship on the subject. Richard is considered to possess an excellent capacity; and should I be so fortunate as to succeed in having a promise of an appointment in the Exchequer, through Lord Camden's very great kindness, his Father in Law [step-father], whom you know holds a situation of the highest trust at Messrs. Coutts' and Co., would not fail to get him properly qualified for the adequate discharge of the required duties. With kindest regards to Mrs. Humphry and yourself, believe me, my dear Miss Humphry, yours affectionately,

Louisa Hare."

This letter (which was evidently written so as to be shown to Lord Camden) is sealed with a crest, a demi-lion rampant.

There are no more letters previous to Mrs. Humphry's death, which occurred on the 14th February, 1835, at the advanced age of 84; she was buried at Seal on the twenty-third. There is an inscription to her memory underneath that on her husband's monument. (See p. 194).

Also to the memory of
Elizabeth his wife

Daughter of the Revd. Francis Woodgate, Vicar of Mountfield and Whatlington
in the County of Sussex,
who departed this life the 14th February 1835
at the age of 84 years ;

who during the course of her long life and under many trials by affliction exhibited
the fruits of Christian resignation, Christian faith and Christian charity.

Mrs. Humphry's will was dated 10th August, 1829. She gave £50 to Mrs. Hare, and £50 to each of Mrs. Hare's children. The household furniture to Frances and Maryanne. The residue, including books, pictures, china, stocks, and real estate to her three daughters absolutely. Witnessed by Geo. Whitehead, Elizth. Palmer, and Geo. Palmer.

The following particulars of her personalty are taken from old Probate papers :

Cash in the house at death	..	..	..	£300
„ at Bankers (Hoare's)	..	..	..	310
Household and garden effects	..	..	..	400
Books, prints, &c.	..	..	..	150
Wearing apparel and trinkets	..	..	..	65
Plate	..	..	..	90
China, linen, &c.	..	..	..	30

£1,345

Besides the above there was the Seal property, the Moat, and money in the funds. Further, on Mrs. Humphry's decease, the marriage settlement monies became divisible ; these monies were represented by £910 in the Three and a half per cent reduced annuities in the names of Ozias Humphry and Henry Woodgate the Trustees, and £2,438 reduced annuities in the name of Henry Woodgate alone. The costs of Probate were £38 ; funeral expenses £53 ; simple contract debts £140 ; and legacies, pecuniary and specific, £740.

The first letter after this sad event describes the packing up of the things for Broomham, where Miss Humphry was to pass the remainder of her life. Sir William sent wagons to bring them away ; and not the least valued part of their freight was the collection of plants and flowers.

“ Seal, March 25th, 1835.

My dear Julia, . . . The stone Mason has been here to-day with a modle in paper of the Tablet intended to be erected to the memory of our beloved Parents. The spot we first fixed on has not sufficient space to admit it. After Prayers this morning I surveyed the church with Mr. Whitehead and Mrs. Nouaille, and they concurred in opinion that the most eligible vacant spot left was next to the Tablet previously erected to departed members of our family, which must be removed a little nearer the door to admit a sufficient space for the erection of one to our Parents. The accounts of poor Maria Allnutt are very indifferent, Mrs. Nouaille is going to-morrow to pass a few days with her friends at Penshurst. She is most kind in wishing me to come to them, but it is impossible for me to leave home with so many work people about, and while there is so much to be done. To-morrow I propose to pack Maryanne's things, & when they are completed commence preparing

the Furniture. Poor Mrs. F. Milward's must be considered a happy release by all her friends ; she has not long survived her sister. Altho' I cannot think of quitting a place where so large a portion of my life has been passed and where all my neighbours evince so much interest in my welfare, without a deep feeling of regret, yet I am most grateful for the home offered me in so kind a manner by Sir William and yourself, and where I anticipate as much happiness as this sublunary state is capable of affording. . . . Frances Humphry."

The tablet was erected by Henderson on the 9th April, when Miss Humphry was still at Seal, engaged in packing up and taking leave of her friends. The house was completely painted and papered, and let. Miss Humphry spent a few days with Mrs. Nouaille, afterwards proceeded to London for a short time to prove her mother's will and wind up the executorship, and then took her departure for Broomham. Her subsequent letters are to be found amongst those of the Ashburnhams.

Maryanne Humphry continued to live at 4, Kensington Crescent till her death, in 1843. There are several further letters from her, but not of an interesting nature. The monument in Seal, erected to her memory, is placed above that of her father and mother.

"To the memory of
Mary Anne youngest daughter of the late
Revd. William Humphry, Vicar of this parish,
and Elizabeth his wife,
who was born January 12th, 1792.
and departed this life after a long period of illness May 27th 1843.

"Behold, I have refined thee but not with silver,
I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction ;
In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment,
But with everlasting kindness will I have
Mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer."

Also of
Frances Humphry
second daughter of the late Rev. William Humphry and Elizabeth Humphry
born June the 17th 1787
whose exemplary and useful life was closed
December the 15th 1854.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from thenceforth
"Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours
"And their works do follow them."

(Beneath is a small shield—it should have been a lozenge, as unmarried ladies are not entitled to the use of shields—displaying the arms of Humphry and Upcott quarterly.)

By her will, dated 1st September, 1840, Mary Anne Humphry of 4, Kensington Crescent, gave all her real estate to her two sisters. All household goods in London to Frances. Share of furniture in house at Seal (occupied by Dennis Hollingworth Esq.) to Lady Ashburnham. Richard, Frederick, Ozias and Juliana Humphry, £500 each in the Three per cents. Mrs. Nouaille, £200 ; Mrs. West, £50 ; Nephew Richard, portrait of his father W. O. Humphry ; Sir W. Ashburnham, miniature of Lionel, Duke of Dorset ; Legacies to Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Hill, and residue to sisters, Executors.

The house at Seal in which the Humphry's resided had been purchased of Lord Bayham (afterwards Lord Camden) by the Rev. William Humphry in 1793. This house and three cottages, and the small property at Noah's Ark, were put up for auction in 1839, but withdrawn. In 1846 the house and three cottages were sold to Lord Camden ; and in 1847 a further portion of the property was sold to Lord

Camden. In 1853 the residue (it seems) was sold ; and of this, Lord Camden bought part for £500, and Mr. Rogers of Riverhill purchased the remainder for £700.

Of Mrs. Hare's children, Ozias perhaps turned out in the least satisfactory manner. He married in a rank lower than his own and died early, leaving (we believe) two children. His widow went out to the Cape, and married the ship's purser.

Richard, as already mentioned, had a deformity in his back. He spent some time at Cornhill, in Durham, with a man named Curry, learning the principles of farming. He stayed there till Christmas, 1836, "by which time," he says, "I hope I shall have acquired a tolerable knowledge of grazing, and also of the world ; and if circumstances go on favourably, I hope to take my passage to South Australia by January or February next." Arrived there, he eventually settled down at Goulburn, a town containing about one thousand inhabitants and situated about 150 miles from Sydney. He describes the gentry there as excessively proud, although many of them "had made their fortune by selling beer and tobacco, the former on the sly." Most of the constabulary of the town were ticket of leave men or ex-convicts. One of the principal public buildings was a very large gaol, surrounded by a high wall. At first the place inspired Humphry with feelings of melancholy and dislike ; but he settled down and eventually acquired a valuable property there. He found the business of a builder most lucrative. He married, and left two children, one of whom died in infancy. We believe the surviving son was brought up at Liverpool or Bootle.

Frederick was employed in the Australind Company, which appears to have been an exploration company. In 1843 he was in Australia. His mother mentions having called at the Company's offices in the City and being shown some of her son's drawings. He held a position of considerable trust, and had gained the esteem of everyone for his ability and honourable behaviour. "He is," writes Mrs. Hare, "more than the fondest mother could wish for. What *pride* did I feel when these beautiful proofs were turned over, with the mark F.H. He is indeed a splendid draftsman." He inherited the family skill in drawing ; and sent home some beautiful reproductions of West Australian scenery. In 1846 he was doing well in Ceylon. What subsequently happened to him we have not been able to ascertain.

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CHAPTER VIII.

WOODGATE OF RIVERHILL, SEVENOAKS.

Henry Woodgate of Riverhill, youngest son of the Rev. Francis Woodgate, born 1746, was early apprenticed to the law. He was articled in London, where he lived with his brother-in-law John Acton in Shire Lane, in the midst of the Courts and Inns.

In 1767, October, John Acton writes, "We were made very happy yesterday to hear by my friend Harry of the health of our friends at Mountfield. His looks prevented any enquiries about him, the effects of the sun, air, exercise and your stingo (as he calls it) being sufficiently apparent, particularly the former below his hat. I was glad to see him so well, and to hear of his good sport, as that seems all to him; however, he resumes the Quill without much regret, and says Westminster Hall now won't hurt him."

Henry Woodgate was a keen sportsman. There is a portrait of him painted, it is said, in his early days, by Ozias Humphry R.A., at Broomham. He is represented with a peruke, carries a gun under his arm, and is clad in brown. William Upcott, Humphry's executor, writes in May, 1811, "On Saturday last I was at the exhibition, where I saw a portrait of Mr. H. Woodgate, but placed too high for me to judge much of its merits."

He was sworn and enrolled an attorney of the Queen's Bench, on 22nd November, 1770, before Lord Mansfield, being then of Serjeants Inn. Not long afterwards he was called to the Bar. The first letter from him is dated 1776, and is addressed to his Father at Mountfield.

"Dear Sir, I lately heard that our *little Friend Chesterfield* intends shortly to leave you, & this Intelligence has been confirmed by Mr. Hammond, who tells me he has taken the Curacy of Bexhill, & that he means to decamp as soon as he can provide yself. Hammond exclaimed in bitter terms agst his Friend, & finally pronounced him Non-Compos. I have made many Enquiries for an assistant for you, & the other Day when I mentd what was abt to take place, before Mr. Courthope, he immediately offered his services, said he shod be happy to assist you for a short time, upon conditions; & here it will be necessary for me to explain & to tell you what these conditions are & in what manner he is circumstanced. Mr. Courthope has engaged Mr. Hussey for a year certain at Brenchley, abt two Months of which time is expired. He therefore wd gladly supply your Living for six Months certain if you'll consent to his residing at Hastings (which by the bye is pretty much the same thing as Beauport) to commence from the 14th of April next. I don't know whether Mr. Gordon is in a hurry to depart, or how you may have provided; but I thot if you shod be distressed, this Offer would not be rejected, especially as it is highly probable Mr. Hussey may wish to succeed him. Mr. Courthope seemed desirous to come, said he did not care a farthing abot the Salary, that whatever you have given others he shall be abundantly satisfied with, & added there was not anr Man in the world he would be Curate to. The Ashburnhams have been in Town some time. I have called on them twice, & they seem in tolerable good Spirits, tho' Denny is not well. My Bror says Delves thanked him kindly the other day for recommending such a customer; they certainly paid everyone very honourably, & made their Exit with applause, which I'll assure you gives me great pleasure to hear. Delves told my Bror that he discounted a Draft of Ld. Ashms for £200.

Woodgate of Riverhill, Sevenoaks.

SHEET No. VI.

Henry Woodgate of Sergeant's Inn and of Riverhill, Sevenoaks, Barrister-at-Law, b. 5 Dec. 1746; bap. at Mountfield 13 Jan. 1747; mar. at Battle 13 Jan. 1780; d. 21 Sep., bur. at Seal 29 Sep. 1834. Ellen, dau. and heiress of John Hammond of Battle; d. 23 April, bur. at Seal 30 April 1831.

Francis Woodgate of Fuxes Hall, Tunbridge, b. 22 May 1781, bap. at Sevenoaks 13 June; Christ Church, Oxford, 1800; d. at Perot Hall 16 May 1843.

Ellen, b. 8 Nov. 1782, bap. at Sevenoaks 29 Nov.; mar. there 19 July 1811; d. 3 Dec. 1839; bur. at Sevenoaks.

Mary, b. Feb. 1784, bap. at Sevenoaks 26 March; bur. at Seal 29 June 1796.

Elizabeth, b. Feb. 1785, bap. at Sevenoaks 4 Feb.; mar. there May 1808.

Anne, b. 4 Sep. 1786, bap. at Sevenoaks 29 Aug.; mar. there 27 July 1824.

Richard Streatfield of Haver, Commander R.N., son of Henry Streatfield of Chiddingstone.

Major John Woodgate, b. 8 Aug. 1788, bap. at Sevenoaks 29 Aug.; d. at Sandbach, Cheshire, 28 March 1868.

Katherine Jane, youngest dau. of the Rev. William Lipscomb, Vicar of Wilbury, Yorks; mar. 1 March 1825; d. 1878.

Sarah, b. 30 Sep. 1789, bap. at Sevenoaks 6 Oct.; mar. there 30 Sep. 1824.

Rev. Francis Lipscomb, M.A., of the Wold, Sevenoaks, afterwards Vicar of Wilbury from 1832 till his death; Corpus Christi College, Oxford (Exhib.), afterwards of University College; d. 4 Aug. 1852.

Rev. Henry=Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas George of Harbour Grace, Newfoundland; mar. 28 March 1869. Had issue 3 sons.

John Alexander Charles Petley, late 58th Regiment, of Auckland, New Zealand. Issue, 3 sons and 3 daughters.

Ellen Charlotte.

Mary Cornwallis, bap. at Sevenoaks 12 Aug. 1829.

Francis Lipscomb, bap. at Sevenoaks.

Henry Lipscomb, bap. at Sevenoaks.

Robert Hartley Lipscomb, Agent to the Hon. Mark Rolfe. Mary Katherine, dau. of John Woodgate of Liverpool; mar. at Sandbach 6 May 1862.

Mary=Francis Woodgate of Underiver, Seal, mar. at St. George's, Hanover Square, 19 June 1834; d. 14 Jan. 1855, aged 45, bur. at Seal 22 Jan.

Mary, dau. of William Taylor of Tunbridge; d. 27 July 1853, aged 42, bur. 4 Aug. 1st wife.

Henry Woodgate, b. 10 Oct. 1811; bap. at Seal 20 Oct. 1812; d. at Bexley Heath.

Thomas Woodgate, d. young.

Thomas Wood=Louisiana Hay, Commander R.N., of Box, Chippenham.

Angus Woodgate, d. young.

Martha, bap. at Seal 12 April 1815; mar. at St. George's, Hanover Square, 10 Aug. 1843.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Charles Robert Carter Petley of Riverhead, b. 9 Sep. 1807; d. 23 May 1890.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Ellen, bap. at Seal 23 Sep. 1816; d. young.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Stephen Woodgate, b. 1817; d. in Bermondsey.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

John Woodgate, b. 1819; d. young.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Alfred Woodgate, b. 1824.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Edward Woodgate, b. 1826; mar. in Australia.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Henry Hammond Woodgate, bap. at Sevenoaks 10 May 1825; d. young.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

John Acton Woodgate, bap. at Sevenoaks 23 May 1828; Lieut. 24th Light Infantry; killed at Chillianwallah 13 Jan. 1849.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Christopher Woodgate of Bella Vista, Haver, and of the Argentine Republic, b. 29 Dec. 1828; d. 1902.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Adelaide Rosalia, William Woodgate of Buenos Ayres.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Francis Woodgate of Valparaiso and of Riverhill, Oxford, near Birkenhead.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Edwin Woodgate of Valparaiso and of Riverhill, Oxford, near Birkenhead.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Penelope Harriet, dau. of Rev. Charles Princes; mar. 8 March 1868.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Cyril Woodgate, d. at Rosario.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Charles Cleaton Woodgate, d. at Lima.

Louisa=Arthur Bullard.

Emily Mary of Eastbourne.

Francis Woodgate of Underiver and of 8 Wilton Place, Captain 2nd Life Guards; d. 19 Sep. 1870.

Jessie Mary Rose of Eastbourne.

Mary Woodgate of Rending.

William Woodgate of Sloper.

Ellen Coustace, mar. Rev. Edward Grantham.

Charles Thomas Woodgate, bap. at Seal.

Mary Agner.

Arthur Henry Aird Woodgate.

Maria Louisa of St. Leonards.

Frederick Antonino William Woodgate, d. at Canterbury School 20 Oct. 1872.

Walter Woodgate of Buenos Ayres.

Amalia, dau. of Don Claudio Stegmann, Vice-Governor of the Province of Buenos Ayres; mar. 26 May 1881.

Henry=Panny, dau. of Dr. Comond version of Woodgate.

Adela, mar., 23 April 1884.

Elena, mar., 2 May 1888.

Rosa, mar., 5 Feb. 1885.

Frederick William Woodgate.

Annita Mary.

Herbert Hammond Woodgate, d. 1872.

Harry Edwin Woodgate, d. 1884.

Osvald Woodgate.

Francis Woodgate, d. unmarr.

Harvey Woodgate.

William Edgar Woodgate.

Agnes Ellen.

Mary Isabel Jessie, mar. Col. Montague P. Hawkes, C.B.

Charles Woodgate, South Africa.

Ernest Woodgate, died unmarr.

George Woodgate.

CHAPTER VIII.

WOODGATE OF RIVERHILL, SEVENOAKS.

Henry Woodgate of Riverhill, youngest son of the Rev. Francis Woodgate, born 1746, was early apprenticed to the law. He was articled in London, where he lived with his brother-in-law John Acton in Shire Lane, in the midst of the Courts and Inns.

In 1767, October, John Acton writes, "We were made very happy yesterday to hear by my friend Harry of the health of our friends at Mountfield. His looks prevented any enquiries about him, the effects of the sun, air, exercise and your stingo (as he calls it) being sufficiently apparent, particularly the former below his hat. I was glad to see him so well, and to hear of his good sport, as that seems all to him; however, he resumes the Quill without much regret, and says Westminster Hall now won't hurt him."

Henry Woodgate was a keen sportsman. There is a portrait of him painted, it is said, in his early days, by Ozias Humphry R.A., at Broomham. He is represented with a peruke, carries a gun under his arm, and is clad in brown. William Upcott, Humphry's executor, writes in May, 1811, "On Saturday last I was at the exhibition, where I saw a portrait of Mr. H. Woodgate, but placed too high for me to judge much of its merits."

He was sworn and enrolled an attorney of the Queen's Bench, on 22nd November, 1770, before Lord Mansfield, being then of Serjeants Inn. Not long afterwards he was called to the Bar. The first letter from him is dated 1776, and is addressed to his Father at Mountfield.

"Dear Sir, I lately heard that our *little Friend Chesterfield* intends shortly to leave you, & this Intelligence has been confirmed by Mr. Hammond, who tells me he has taken the Curacy of Bexhill, & that he means to decamp as soon as he can provide yrself. Hammond exclaimed in bitter terms agst his Friend, & finally pronounced him Non-Compos. I have made many Enquiries for an assistant for you, & the other Day when I mentd what was abt to take place, before Mr. Courthope, he immediately offered his services, said he shod be happy to assist you for a short time, upon conditions; & here it will be necessary for me to explain & to tell you what these conditions are & in what manner he is circumstanced. Mr. Courthope has engaged Mr. Hussey for a year certain at Brenchley, abt two Months of which time is expired. He therefore wd gladly supply your Living for six Months certain if you'll consent to his residing at Hastings (which by the bye is pretty much the same thing as Beauport) to commence from the 14th of April next. I don't know whether Mr. Gordon is in a hurry to depart, or how you may have provided; but I thot if you shod be distressed, this Offer would not be rejected, especially as it is highly probable Mr. Hussey may wish to succeed him. Mr. Courthope seemed desirous to come, said he did not care a farthing abot the Salary, that whatever you have given others he shall be abundantly satisfied with, & added there was not anr Man in the world he would be Curate to. The Ashburnhams have been in Town some time. I have called on them twice, & they seem in tolerable good Spirits, tho' Denny is not well. My Bror says Delves thanked him kindly the other day for recommending such a customer; they certainly paid everyone very honourably, & made their Exit with applause, which I'll assure you gives me great pleasure to hear. Delves told my Bror that he discounted a Draft of Ld. Ashms for £200.

I have not yet seen Mr. Acton's new house [in Vauxhall] but they give me a great account of it. *Johnny* says he shall be ruined, as he has had three Men constantly at work in his Garden ever since the Snow went. He has near three acres of ground well laid out, wch to be sure will want a great deal of Labour to keep it in thorough Order & repair; its a pretty hobby Horse & from which (tho' a bad horseman) *he is in no Danger of being decanted.*

I hope you did not suffer in the late cold weather. Most old People complained a good deal, & it really was for many days so intense that it got to the marrow of the Young; at least I found it difficult to keep myself warm even by the fireside, but then that *might be owing to the delicacy of my Texture & Frame.* The poor must have suffered greatly, & I believe more in the Country than here, as there have been very noble Subscriptions open'd & supported with great Spirit & Generosity. I thot of poor John Sellous many times; it must have thrown him back a good deal, & therefore I shod be much obliged if you wd give him five shillings for me & likewise five shillings to my old Friend Robin (who must have been a Sufferer too), & credit me for the same or *draw upon me at Sight.* My Aunt Swayne still continues poorly & my Uncle had a fall in the frost wch almost laid him up; his Hip (my Bror says) is so bad now that Dr. Miller attends him daily. I hope my Dogs turn out well; they have now a good Home, & I shod be sorry if they don't behave properly. I am just returned from the Sittings at Guildhall, & have not time to write more. Mr. Courthope wd be glad to know yr Sentiments as soon as convenient. I beg my Duty & Love & remain in haste, Dr. Sir, your truly affect. & Dutiful Son.
Saturday Eveng, Feby 10th, 1776." Henry Woodgate."

The letter is endorsed in Francis' handwriting "41. Feb. 10.'76 Gordon, Courthope. Chairs * A's House, 5s. to R. & J. Sellous."

The next letter was dated 28th November, 1778, and addressed to his sister Mrs. Humphry, congratulating her on her marriage.

"Dear Betty Burr, I am so heartily ashamed of myself for not writing to you sooner that I am set down at a very late hour *to pay my Respects to you,* & to assure you that, altho' many of yr Friends may have been much earlier in their Congratulations, yet that none of them are more sanguine in their good Wishes for yr Felicity, or that more heartily rejoice with you on the late Event than I do. It is my sincere Opinion that you have got a *good honest Trout* for a Husband, & I am inclined to think (tho' by the bye it is dangerous to intrust you with the Secret) that he has made a very excellent choice in a Wife. They tell me you both plighted your troth with great Solemnity, & went thro' the Ceremony with an admirable good Grace. I wish I cod have seen you; it may not be so awful as some people represent it, but I have my Fears, my Doubts & Apprehensions, & shod be very loth *to run any Risque.*

It will not be long before I shall be released, & as I know my way to Godden & into yr *Ale Cellar,* you may depend on an early visit. *The Dr.* had some right special in the Autumn & I hope the next Brewg will turn out well. You know my Mother was always very indulgent to me after a long Day's *Fag,* & I hope you'll be equally liberal, & *allow me a Quart.* Mr. Humphry desired me to send him 2 lbs. of Tea, 1 at 18s. the other at 12s., but as I had an opportunity of getting some in anr way equally good & much cheaper *hope he'll excuse it.* I really think it was extraordinary good & Hope you reced it safe by the Coach.

Pray let me ask you whether you have heard anything of a Mr. Erskine lately? A gentleman of that name has been the only Subject of Conversation for some Days past. He is a young Barrister (called only last Term) that on Monday made such a Speech (in a Matter where Lord Sandwich was a party & whose conduct appeared in the most infamous Light) as astonished the whole Court & every pson that heard him. He is certainly a Phenomenon; his abilities are transcendent, & there's no doubt but he'll very soon be a very great Man. He's brother to Lord Buchan

& was formerly both in the Navy & Army, is the same pson that Miss Moore eloped with, & I find that he knows Stephen & some of you. He asked me last Night at Guildhall very particularly after you. The Judges & all the Bar were ready to *smother him with Encomiums*. He has five children, has not studied the Law more than three years, but during that time so intensely as rather to hurt his Health. You may tell your neighbour Hardinge [of the Grove, Seal], Mrs. Skinfint, that her Son's best Oratory is but Dishwater to Mr. Erskine's common Talk. You see how much I am hurried, & I am sure you'll easily perceive that I grow very dull. I beg you'll present my Love & good wishes to your worthy Spouse, & likewise to such of my Sisters as are with you, & believe me at all times, yr most affectionate Brother

H. Woodgate.

Saturday, 11 o'clock.

I saw my friend Mr. Ozias [Humphry] this day, who is very well I can only find common office Paper, & that's better than brown."

Henry's judgment was fully vindicated by events. Mr. Erskine became one of the greatest Lord Chancellors that have ever adorned the Woolsack.

In 1779 Henry was prepared to take the "risque" he mentions. "Henry is gone to dine at Battle," writes his mother in October; "he pays great attention that way, & he has great reason so to do, & the more as he is just going to leave us. The particulars you will have from himself. He certainly is a very fortunate young man." And again, on 6th December, she writes, "Henry just gave us a call yesterday morn in his way to Battle; he is to return to-morrow morn very early, as he must be in Town in the evening. I am quite afraid that he has too much business upon his hands at once, hurrying about continually, & we have had so much Rain, Wind & continually floods that I was afraid he wou'dn't be able to get over. Mrs. & Miss H. [Hammond] seemed very [pleased] with the House they have taken [in town]; they were very fortunate to get it, but rather too far for the young Man, as he must be very early and very late, but lighted to the door, which I think is some satisfaction. I intend sending this by Henry, but he says he can't possibly call on you this time, hopes you'l excuse it. I hope the happy day isn't far off, & I think if it please God they have their health they have a fair chance & a pleasing prospect for it."

He married at Battle, on 13th January, 1780, by licence, Ellen, daughter and heiress of John Hammond (a) of Battle, a lady with a fortune of £80,000.

(a) The Hammonds were a family that had long been settled in Sussex. The name (written in earlier times Hamon) occurs constantly in the muniments of Battle Abbey, leaving but little doubt that the family originated with Roger FitzHamon, who came over with the Conqueror, on whose death it is stated that he embraced the cause of Rufus against his brother Robert; and on the death of Rufus, took the same course in support of Henry I. In 1102 Robert Fitz-Hamon founded a monastery at Tewkesbury where he died. One of their descendants was John Hammond, the last and thirty-second Abbot of Battle. On the dissolution of monasteries by Henry VIII, he was compensated with the Deanery of Battle and an annual pension of 100 marks, which he only lived to enjoy some eight years. There was formerly in the Abbey some painted glass bearing a representation of him.

The Abbot's will was dated 1st December, 1540; and by it he bequeathed the bulk of his property to the church and his servants, leaving however a house and some land at Battle to his kinsman John Hammond, son of Thomas Hammond.

The Hammonds in later years, it is said, owned the Powder Mills at Battle, famous for the excellence of their products. In the Church there are several stones to their memory.

"Here lies the body of John Hammond; died January 9th, 1711, aged 75. Also the body of Joan wife of John Hammond, who died January 24th, 1700, aged 69."

"Sacred to the memory of John Hammond of this Parish, Gentleman, who died 17th Decr., 1761, aged 48 years. Also of Eleanor, his wife, who died 11th January, 1797, aged 84 years. Also of John Hammond their son, who died 16th March, 1760, aged 5 years. Also of William Hammond, son of John Hammond the Elder, who died 20th April, 1749, aged 54 years."

It is not at present known in what way this money was settled, if at all. On his side, however, the Rev. Francis Woodgate brought into settlement Riverhill in Sevenoaks, and certain other lands in Kent. Riverhill was a large and substantial stone house, with extensive grounds, standing in a park of a hundred and twenty acres. It stands close to the summit of Riverhill (whence the name), faces south, and commands a magnificent view across the Weald of Kent in four counties. It is about two hundred feet from the brow of the hill, and is therefore well sheltered on the North. For many years it had been the property of the Childrens (see p. 41).

Henry Woodgate was private Secretary of Lord Mansfield, the great Lord Chancellor. It is not known whether he ever practised much as a Barrister; he certainly seems to have been assiduous in his attendance at the Courts, but this may have been due in some measure to his connection with Lord Mansfield. While in town, he seems to have lived in the pleasant village of Clapham, where he had a small farm. The following is addressed to his father.

“ Serjeants Inn, 12th Febr., 1790.

Dear Sir, I shod think myself guilty of the most inexcusable neglect for not writing sooner, if I had not had particular Reasons for it. I knew it wod be expected of me to say something of Matrimony, & *to tell you the Truth, I did not like to hazard an opinion without knowing how I shod like it*, nor wod it have been at all the thing for *so green and inexperienced a Lad like me*, three days after my Nuptials, to have talked loudly of the Joys & comforts of domestick Life & of the amiable Temper & gentle Disposition of my Spouse. But now having had time to look round the new Scene of Life, I have the pleasure to tell you in the sober Voice of Discretion that I never was half so happy a Man in my Life, & I can assure you that if I had had my Wife *on Tryal only* I like her so well that I wod not exchange her for any other Woman alive. And now, having said this much, let me not forget to thank you in the kindest manner for yr ready assistance & most generous support, which you lately so cheerfully gave me. I know it is more than most Fathers wod have done, but then there are few Sons so happy in a Father as I am. We like our House, Servants &c. &c. very much, & have hitherto gone on very smoothly. I believe Mrs. W—— informed you that I had a Cow, which we find vastly convenient and advantageous; she supplies us with Cream, Custards, *Syllabubs* & yesterday for the first time we made three pounds of Butter. There's for you, Sir; whose Dairy can yield more? Master Allingham is to buy me another Alderney (of Mr. Evelyn, who has many to sell) immediately, as I can very well keep two, & I am sure it will turn to a very good Acct.

The getting backward and forward in the Season I have found difficult and fatiguing, as I seldom during the Term have left Chambers much before nine, & I have always rode, but now it is over, for the Sittings begin on Monday, when I shall

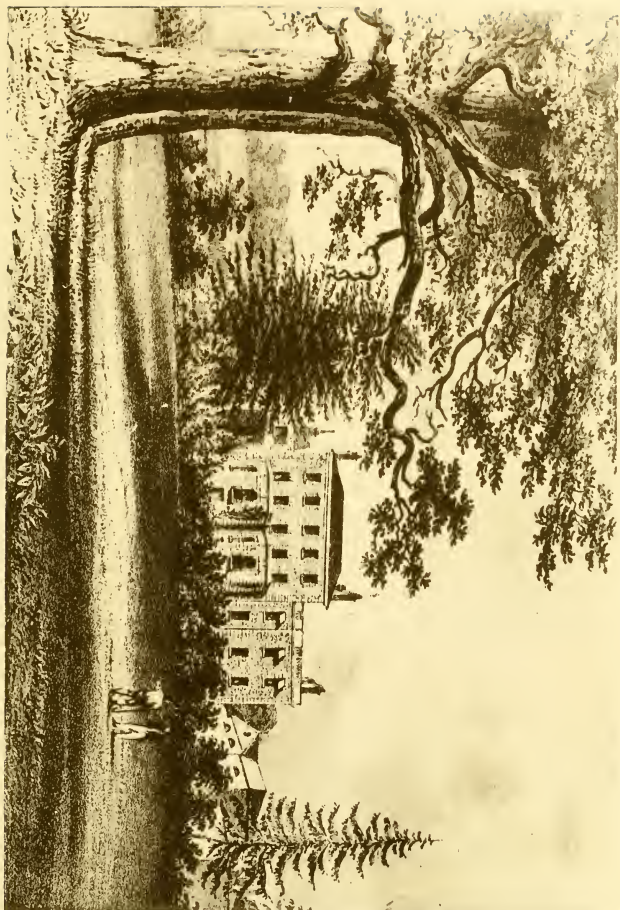
The will of John Hammond of Battle, proved at Lewes, 1741, mentions his wife Anne, his son John, and his daughters Anne and Hannah. There are also Hammonds mentioned in the Parish Register of Battle:—

<i>Baptisms.</i>	1722, June 8.	John, son of William and Elizabeth Hammond.
	1752, May 22.	Eleanor, daughter of John and Eleanor Hammond.
<i>Burials.</i>	1714, April 12.	Mrs. Ann Hammond, widow.
	1720, June 11.	Mr. Thomas Hammond.
	1745, March 25.	Mr. William Hammond.
	1749, April 20.	Mrs. William Hammond.
	1760, March 10.	John, son of Mr. John Hammond.
	1761, Dec. 28.	Mrs. John Hammond.
	1772, June 22.	Mrs. Elizabeth Hammond, widow.
	1773, May 22.	Margaret, daughter of Mr. John Hammond.

Marriage at Ashburnham, Sussex:

1716, Aug. 3. William Hammond and Elizabeth Sampson.

Ellen Hammond must have been daughter of John, who died 1761, and Eleanor. Their arms, which should be quartered by Ellen Hammond's descendants, were “Argent, within a bordure engrailed vert, on a fess sable, three ogresses each charged with a martlet of the field, between three escallop shells or.”



RIVERHILL, near Sevenoaks, the Seat of Henry Woodgate, Esq.

always dine at Home. But you'll say, Won't it be sharp work to be at Westmr Hall dressed at nine every Morn'g? Mrs. Woodgate flatters herself from something that passed between you that she shall have the Pleasure of seeing you and my Mother at Clapham this Summer. I wish she did not misinterpret your words, for there is nothing in this world wud make us both so happy, if it is only for a Night or two; we heartily hope you'll come as I wish much to shew you my *Farm* and the *et ceteras*. I have had a very kind letter of congratulation from my Brother, but Mrs. Woodgate does not join with him in any of his good wishes, for her name is never mentioned. I have heard that she has said that she never will visit my Mrs. W—— as the slight of passing by without calling on her never can be forgotten. I sent a piece of Cake to my Uncle & wrote to him to make our Excuses for not calling on him, which he has since mentioned to sevl people & seemed much pleased with.

There is very good News arrived & the following may be depended upon, as Lord Mansfield just now coming from Westmr read a letter to me from Lord Stormont with the following Intelligence, that Ross & Digby with a part of Rodney's Squadron has fallen in with Eight Spanish Men of War, two of which they captured; but being taken near their own Coast, & a heavy Gale of Wind coming on, they were obliged to put into Cadiz, where two others of their Squadron soon after arrived in a shattered Condition & reported that the other Dons were taken by us. The News is universally believed & a Gazette extraordinary is expected this Evening. I am glad to see the Spirit of our Countrymen roused, and that we are likely to humble the Pride of our Insolent Foes. Mr. Acton's Family is well; they dine with *us* to-morrow. Mrs. Woodgate joins with me in kindest Love & best wishes, & I remain, Dr. Sir, yr most affectionate & dutiful Son

H. Woodgate.

Mrs. Woodgate is much obliged to my Mother for her kind Letter."

About this time were the Gordon Riots, when the mob sacked Lord Mansfield's House in Great Ormond Street and endeavoured to destroy his country house at Hampstead. The whole thing is minutely described in *Barnaby Rudge*. Not content with this, they sought his Lordship's life; and a large mob laid in wait for him on his way down to the Houses of Parliament. Henry Woodgate accompanied him, and had heard of the intention of the mob. The story is told in the words of one of his descendants. "My grandmother (Ellen Woodgate), who had not been married long, took off her snood, a *blue* ribbon I think, but at any rate the colour of the Rioters, and begged her husband to wear it if he saw any occasion. When they came to the Mob, he told Lord Mansfield to sit well back, and thrust his great burly figure through the window, wearing these ribbons, and they let the carriage pass."

The next letter is dated from the country.

"Riverhill, April 7th, 1781.

Dear Sir, I am just drove in from the Garden by the Rain, where I have been very busy the whole Morning & indeed almost every Day since our return. We now begin to look neat & I think have found every thing the Season will admit of. My Consort is remarkably well & has fine Spirits. My brother S. [Stephen] went to Town on Thursday & took Jack Acton Home; he returned this Morn'g & has sent me word that he will spend this Evening with me. My Sisters dined here on Thursday & I walked Home with them in the Eveng; imagine they have informed you of a curious Anecdote concerning *our* Rector. The Living of Ightham is reported to be sold but I do not believe it to be true; nay, Lipshot said an attorney in London of the name of Tresilieue informed him that he had purchased the immediate Presentation for his Son. I was afraid to say a great deal or I cod have told him Tresilieue was not only a Rascal but a Beggar. Mr. Bishop just gave us a call on Thursday Eveng; he was engaged to sleep with the Miss Jordans or he wud have staid with us. He admired this place most exceedingly but I did not think he said a word too much in the Praise of it; for I view it with greater Delight every Day I

live, & never can sufficiently express my Gratitude & Obligations to you for the Possession of it. My Uncle & Aunt both promised to come & see us very soon; the former complained of being a good deal out of Order, said he had not had a well day for three months. I have not seen or heard anything of our Friends at Summerhill since our return, believe I shall ride down the beginning of the week. I have taken old Hollowback into the Stable again, & she is better than ever I remember her. She has brought me two fine Colts, & therefore it is time she shod have a Respite from suckling. I go on very well with my Laundry; but Carpenters & Masons are a People not to be got rid of in a hurry. I push them on as fast as possible & am determined to keep them to it, & hereafter I am resolved to have as little to do with them, as they *half ruin a Man in small Beer*. Mr. Knox of Tunbridge has a new Coach just come out *spick & span* with a pair of long Tail Greys. Is not this quite the thing? My Aunt says, Lor', Sir, a Schoolmaster's is a vast fine Trade. I intend to send Thomas with the whiskey next Sunday or to-morrow Sen'ight for Mrs. Pepper, who will return the next Day, & if you can spare me a Gallon of yr Potatoes to plant & will be kind enough to send them to the Cross, I shod be much obliged to you, as they are an extraordinary fine sort. Mrs. Woodgate joins with me in Love & kindest wishes to all the good Family, & we both present our best Thanks for the use of your Chaise & all other favours. I remain, Dr. Sir, yr most truly affectionate & Dutiful Son,

H. Woodgate.

Shall be glad of a line from one of yr Secretaries when convenient."

Endorsed "H's 59, April 7, 1781, Mrs. Pepper, Potatoes &c." Sealed with the Woodgate arms and crest.

In 1792, the excesses of the French Revolutionists excited great alarm in England, and meetings were held all over the country to pass resolutions to testify their attachment to the happy constitution of their country, and to strengthen the hands of the executive. With the same object in view, the Kent Association was formed. Committees were everywhere organised. The resolution passed at the Sevenoaks meeting had forty-four signatories, all being men of considerable local consequence and standing, including Henry Streatfeild, Revd. T. S. Curteis, T. Thompson, Henry Woodgate, William Humphry, Rev. Thomas Harvey, Stephen Woodgate, Peter Nouaille and Peter Nouaille jun., and the committee of nineteen members included Streatfeild, Harvey, Curteis, Henry Woodgate and Nouaille.

About this time, Ozias Humphry writes:—

"Mr. & Mrs. Woodgate's pictures came very safe last night. I hope to hear Mrs. Acton is quite recovered before this; I suppose the whole of that Family are gone to Mountfield. I was at Twickenham Tuesday last & Wednesday, where I dined with Mr. Gibbon & a select party of literati. Mr. Cambridge declares he never in his life saw any person who did the Honours of her table more perfectly well than Mrs. Woodgate, nor did he ever see a more agreeable. . . . (*torn*)."

There are many short notes from Henry Woodgate to his neighbours, the Humphrys, accompanying little presents of game and fruit—such as the following, dated about 1808.

"My dear Mary Ann [Humphry], The Bearer will bring you back your Basket which I have filled, but I beg you'll remember the *Condition* upon which I have done it. The peaches look very fine but they are deceitful, as they have not the flavour that my Fruit generally has. I saw your sister F. on Monday who was quite well. If you receive this Note in time, pray stop your Brother from coming here to-day, as we are all going out at *twelve o'clock* with Mr. & Mrs. John Ponton to spend the Day at Godden. To-morrow or any other Day we shall be most happy to see him, & if he does not stay some Days with us, we shall be very much disappointed. With our united kind Love & best wishes to all, believe me, your most affectionate Uncle.

Friday Morning.

Henry Woodgate."

Henry Woodgate had seven children, of whom Mary died in infancy. Elizabeth, the second daughter, married about this time Major Broome (b) or Brome, of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, stationed at Rochester. In 1813 he was one of the Committee of which Lord Darnley was chairman, formed to promote the entertainment of the officers of the Russian fleet lying in the Medway, and so testify the admiration of the British public for the Russians' heroic resistance to the French.

On 5th April, 1808, Alicia West writes, "I was surprised to hear that Elizabeth Woodgate is going to *commence Matron*, & more particularly that she has the courage to support that character with a *Military Gentleman*. I have not yet had the pleasure of seeing Captain Brome, therefore you may imagine I am not a little impatient to be introduced to my cousin Elect. My Uncle Henry was so kind as to call here to announce the approaching Nuptials which are to take place in his family, & I was very happy to hear it was to his entire approbation."

In 1809 Francis, the elder son, married Martha Ponton, (c) sister of the before named John Ponton, and daughter of Thomas Ponton.

John, the younger son, on 27th October, 1805, joined the 52nd Light Infantry, commanded by Sir John Moore, the hero of Corunna. That was the day when news came of the battle of Trafalgar, when Captain Cooke, uncle of the lady who was afterwards to be John's wife, fell on board the *Bellerophon*. In 1806 he served in Sicily. In that year on 14th July his cousin, Alicia West, writes: "While we were at Goudhurst, John Woodgate's Regiment passed through in their way to Maidstone; but unfortunately I did not see my friend John as he halted at Cranbrook instead of Goudhurst."

While John joined the regular forces of the Crown, his father and brother were equally ready to contribute their share to the defence of the country.

In 1794, when troops of yeomanry were being formed in Kent (one of which was raised by Henry's nephew William Woodgate of Summerhill), and subscriptions opened, Henry subscribed £30. In 1803, when the Sevenoaks Volunteer Infantry was formed, Henry Woodgate received a Captain's commission. It was commanded by Lt. Cols. Lord Whitworth (of Knole) and Lord Frederick Campbell; Captains F. M. Austen, Christopher Cooke, W. S. Coast, George Polhill, and Thomas Lane. Later on, it would seem that the name of the Volunteers was altered to the "Sevenoaks and Bromley Regiment of Local Militia."

Another corps was formed called the Holmesdale Volunteers. Francis Woodgate and Charles Carter Petley of Riverhead were Lieutenants, and received their Captaincy on 28th June, 1805. Petley resigned in 1808, and was succeeded by Lieut. George Austen. The Volunteers received their colours in 1803 from the Duchess of Dorset at Knowle. They were drawn up 600 strong in the quadrangle, in the presence of the Duchess of Dorset and Lord Whitworth, the Duke of Dorset, the Rev. Thomas Sackville Curteis, chaplain to the Regiment, and many ladies of

(b) A Capt. Joseph Brome in 1810 took out a game licence; described as of Sevenoaks. Major General Joseph Brome, R.A., d 11th March, 1782.

(c) The Pontons owned a large amount of Lambeth and Battersea. Thomas Ponton of Lincoln's Inn (son of Daniel Ponton of St. Mary's, Lambeth, who died 15th May, 1777, and Mrs. Ponton, who died 12th January, 1788) was born 1749, matriculated at St. John's College, Oxford; M.A. in 1774; was called to the Bar in 1772. About 1808 he settled down at Nisells in Hildenborough, where he lived till his death in October, 1821, aged 73. From 1808 to 1821, his name appears among those in Kent who took out game licences.

He had four children, at the least. One was Martha Woodgate; another Mrs. Willis; a third, John, who married in June, 1810, Catherine, daughter of John Dunn of Bedford Street and of East Sheen, and lived from 1810 to 1815 at Edenbridge; and Thomas. The latter, like his father, was a barrister, of Lincoln's Inn, 1804. He took his degree at Brasenose, and died in Hill Street, Berkeley Square, on 13th April, 1853. He was one of the founders of the Roxburgh Club.

The Ponton arms are, "Gules, a lion rampant argent, between three escallop shells or."

Sevenoaks. The officers were lavishly entertained at Knowle, and the men regaled at the different inns in Sevenoaks.

Henry Woodgate was, it is presumed, a magistrate for the county. He served on grand juries at Maidstone from time to time, and was equally active in other directions (*d*). In one instance he was somewhat unfortunate. In the case of "Holloway and Freeman v. Henry Woodgate Esq. and others" (Commissioners of Taxes for Shoreham), the defendants were mulcted in £620 damages for illegal distress.

In 1814, Ellen, the eldest daughter, became engaged to Charles Carter Petley of Riverhead. On 2nd May Maryanne Humphry writes:—

"Were not my Aunt and yourself surprized at the Intelligence my Uncle communicated on Monday last? It was announced to us the preceding day, tho' we had before suspected an Alliance to be forming between the two Families. I have no doubt but Ellen will be very kind to the little Boys, & as Mr. Petley behaved so well to his former lady, there is great reason to hope it will prove a happy union, which we sincerely hope will be the case. They have taken Mr. Meins' house at Brasted which is ready furnished & the rent eighty pounds per annum. Captain & Mrs. Brome call'd upon us yesterday on their return to Rochester. She is looking remarkably well & the Infant is a fine child. Mr. & Mrs. Francis Woodgate went to Town last Monday; it is uncertain what stay they make. The youngest little Boy is left at Godding during their absence."

The Petleys are one of the oldest Kentish families. They are descended in direct line from Richard Petley of Downe, living temp. Hen. III, whose descendant married about 1620, as his second wife, Elizabeth daughter of Ralph Came of London, through whom he acquired Riverhead. Charles Carter Petley was unable to take possession of the family house, because his mother and his grandmother were both living. He had married, firstly, Annabella daughter of Donald MacLeod of Geanies, Sheriff-depute of Ross, who died in 1812, leaving Charles, b. 1807 (who afterwards married Martha daughter of Francis Woodgate) and Patrick, b. 1811. He held, as already mentioned, a captaincy in the Holmesdale Volunteers, which he subsequently resigned, and in 1814 was gazetted to a captaincy in the Sevenoaks and Bromley Regiment, West Kent Militia, *vice* Duke of Dorset, promoted. He was likewise a Magistrate and (in 1821) a Deputy Lieutenant for the County.

He married on 19th July, 1814, Ellen Woodgate. The marriage settlement was dated the 16th July; and the trustees were Francis and John Woodgate and Henry Heneage St. Paul. Their residence at Brasted was temporary, and they soon took up their abode at Chipstead, Chevening. Francis Woodgate meanwhile was living at Godden (1809-1817). Only three of his letters remain. The first is addressed to his Uncle on the death of Elizabeth Humphry:—

"My dear Sir,

On our return from Town last night we were truly concerned to hear of the loss you had sustained. For our departed friend, the change no doubt is a happy & enviable one. Pray give our love to Mrs. Humphry & all your Circle, with whom we most sincerely condole. If I can be of any use on this melancholy occasion,

(*d*) There is in existence an old printed handbill headed "A caution to the inhabitants of Sevenoaks and its vicinity." It seems that Henry Woodgate, the Rev. T. Curteis, Messrs. Evelyn, Willard and other gentlemen disputed some proceeding of the Duke of Dorset, and called a public meeting to oppose it. The broadside more than hints that they were prompted by motives of self interest, not by public spirit; and states that "their notices carry on the Face of them sure marks of their *Imbecility* and the *Badness* of their *Cause*. They have called a Meeting to adopt *some Plan*. Why? Because they are without *Sure ground* to go upon. They are about to dispute his Grace's right to his own Property; and fearful of the Expence, wish to shift it, and the attending Obloquy, upon those who may be simple enough to join with them. In short, their *Aims* are unattainable. They know and fear this, and whoever shall be hardy enough to embark with them will have to lament their Folly in being so engaged."

remember I am always ready. We hope to hear you are all well; pray do not trouble yourself to write. I am happy to say Mrs. Woodgate is better than when she left home. I remain, my dear Sir, yrs very sincerely
 Godden, June 8th, 1815.

F. Woodgate."

On 6th November, 1815, Maryanne Humphry again writes:—

"I accompanied my Father to Chevening on Sunday & on our return we called upon Mr. & Mrs. Charles Petley; the little Boy is quite recovered from the Cow pox & is a very fine child. The Riverhill Family are made very happy by the arrival of John in England. He is not coming home till the end of the month, as he is under the necessity of remaining with his regiment which (I believe) is now stationed at Portsmouth. The apartments of Major Brome at Chatham are now painting. He is to bring his children to River Hill to day to stay there till this Inconvenience is removed. We called at Godding on Friday, when Mrs. Francis Woodgate informed us Mr. & Mrs. Whi . . . were coming to spend a week with her."

John Woodgate had returned covered with distinction. After serving in Sicily, he landed in the Peninsula with the 2nd Battalion in 1808. When the 52nd marched into Spain, Capt. Clement Poole, Lieut. John Woodgate, and Ensign William Royds, three sergeants and 130 men were left sick at Lisbon; but as soon as their party was fit for duty it was incorporated into a battalion composed of detachments from the 29th, 43rd, and the Rifle Corps, under Major Way of the 29th, and formed part of General Richard Stewart's Brigade at the time when the army under Sir Arthur Wellesley moved against Oporto.

This detachment was commanded by Lieut. Woodgate. He was severely wounded on this occasion. He was the first to scale the wall and was severely shot in the loins. Six rank and file were wounded and four missing. Sir Arthur Wellesley, in his despatches, requested to draw attention to the conduct of the 29th, 43rd, 52nd and Rifle Corps.

In 1809 he served with the advanced guard at the passage of the Douro; was present at the action on the heights of Grijon (severely wounded); and Talavera. In the retreat of Massena from Spain, he served with the 1st Batt. of the 52nd and was engaged in various affairs, including Sabrigal (1811), and the battle of Fuentes D'Onoro. In 1812 he was severely wounded before Ciudad Rodrigo. The enemy had occupied a strong redoubt on the hills of St. Francisco. A detachment of the light division was told off to storm the place, which was carried out in the most brilliant manner, and all the garrison killed or taken. Only six of our men were killed; and three officers (Capt. Mein, Lieut. Woodgate, and Lieut. Hawkesley) and 14 men wounded. Woodgate was promoted to a company in the Bourbon Rifles and in 1812 exchanged into the 20th Light Dragoons.

Woodgate had been wounded at Badajoz. He fell into deep snow and lay there all night unconscious. Next morning Lord Wellington rode round watching the dead being picked up, and saw Lieut. Woodgate, who, waking up at the same time, imagined he had been asleep and was horrified to reflect what must be the opinion of his C.O. Looking down, he saw the muscles hanging out of his left pocket and his white breeches covered with blood. The sight reassured him, and he swooned away again.

John Woodgate formed a life-long friendship with Lord Hardinge. It originated in this way. John was sent to school at Sevenoaks, a big boy for his age; and his first day there some of the other boys had got hold of little Hardinge and were roasting him before the fire, according to the genial custom of the times. Though only a "new boy," John made such a fuss that Hardinge was released; and, to attest his gratitude, carved him a small wooden boat, for many years preserved in the family.

After Ciudad Rodrigo, Sir Henry Hardinge (as he then was) wrote home to the Woodgates of Riverhill a warm eulogy of his friend. "Your son," he said, "with a spirit you will admire, however you may endeavour to restrain it in the future, volunteered his services on the evening of the 8th instant to be one of a chosen detachment of his Regt. to attack by escalade a redoubt in front of Ciudad Rodrigo, the possession of which would very much accelerate the progress of the siege against the place. . . and in which your son, whilst gallantly exciting his men, received a wound on the side, by the bursting of some Grenades thrown from the Redoubt. He is attended by Lord Wellington's surgeon Mr. Gunning. . . I would have wished you to have rejoiced on the occasion which the despatches will relate unmixed with any trial to your feelings from your son's wound, but I have very great pleasure in affording to the Father of my old school fellow & to his Kentish friends the very proudest consolation you can all feel, that whilst stepping beyond the line of his Duty your son received his wound in evincing a courage & determination that the bravest cannot surpass, & which his Regt. & Friends cannot too much admire. . . . Very truly & sincerely yours,

H. Hardinge."

From such scenes, a return to matters of business detail is somewhat humdrum. Mr. Humphry died in 1816, and Henry Woodgate's assistance to Mrs. Humphry in managing his affairs must have been very valuable. We have one letter advising her not to be managed by Mr. Urquhart's somewhat officious interference in the matter of a mortgage. He drafts a letter which Mrs. Humphry should write to him.

"Sir, I am sorry you shod have promised the Money & engaged Mr. Thompson to go to Otham about the Business of the Mortgage, as I cannot think that an Oast-house & 34 acres of land can be a sufficient security for £2000, & it appears to me that both Mr. Randall & Mr. Scudamore have their doubts about it; for although they mention that the Interest will be paid regularly, they do not say what Mr. Price paid Mr. Horne for this Property, or what in their opinion is the present value of it. I shall write to my Son, who is an interested Party, to know his sentiments before I can give you a final Answer. I am, Sir, . . ."

In 1822 Mr. Petley's grandmother died, aged 91. Maryanne Humphry writes, on 8th March, "My uncle with Anne & Sarah spent a morning here last week. Four of Mrs. Petley's Grandsons followed her remains to the grave. She has left £500 to each of Captain Petley's daughters; Mrs. Cade & Mr. Petley are left executors to her will, & Mrs. Carter Petley is said to have a jointure of £800 a year."

In 1824, Anne Woodgate of Riverhill married Richard Streatfeild (e), Commander R.N. He had passed his examinations in 1808, was gazetted to a lieutenancy on 19th July, 1809, and was promoted to the rank of Commander, while serving in the Impregnable, in May, 1814. He was a younger son of Henry Streatfeild of Chidingstone (see Pedigree). The settlement was dated 27th July, 1825, and the Trustees were Francis and John Woodgate and Henry and George Streatfeild.

There are only two letters from Anne Streatfeild. The first was a note to Julia Humphry, not long before her marriage, thanking her for procuring certain materials for dress. "My Mother," she continues, "is very glad you like her butter, but she says she shall be quite *affronted* if you say a word more about paying for it, as she is sure you would gladly accomodate her in distress. She will continue to save the same quantity for you every week, or more if you wish it. Frank is with us & desires his kind love to you all; he is sorry the weather prevents his calling on you this morning, as he is obliged to return to Hastings to-morrow. He will be up again in about a fortnight, and if it would be agreeable to you to return with him, he would

(e) The marriage was at Sevenoaks, by licence, on 27th July, 1824. The Rev. William Streatfeild officiated; and the witnesses who subscribed the register were Christopher Lipscomb, Abraham Streatfeild, Jane Esther Streatfeild, Henry Woodgate, Henry Streatfeild, and Sarah Woodgate.

be very happy to have your company. We were at Tonbridge on Wednesday & found all our Friends well. I'm happy to say my Father is pretty well except a little cold. The Petleys have been with us the last week, but I'm sorry to say they leave us this morning, therefore I hope, my dear Julia, you will excuse haste, & with our united kind love to my Aunt, Maryanne & yourself believe me, most affectionately yours
Anne Woodgate."

Mrs. Streatfeild's other letter was written to Miss Humphry on the death of her aunt Rose Woodgate in 1827.

"My dear Fanny,

Your kind note announcing to me the melancholy event which has taken place did not reach me till yesterday, owing to the neglect of our servants in not forwarding it to Chiddingstone where we were staying. In the meantime I had heard of our loss from Mr. Allnutt. Thus, my dear Fanny, I was of course fully prepared for the distressing account you gave of my poor Aunt on Saturday. Under such sad circumstances, and so thoroughly fit as she must have been for the change, surely her release must have been earnestly desired by all who loved her. I am sure you will believe that from my heart I participate with you in all the feelings you have so well expressed in your note, and with them is mixed sincere regret that you should have so soon again been called upon to witness such melancholy scenes. Capt'n. Streatfeild desires his kindest regards to you, & believe me, my dear Fanny, ever your most affectionate cousin
Smarts' Hill, Saturday, 6th [Jan., 1827].

Anne Streatfeild."

The letter is sealed with the Streatfeild arms impaling those of Woodgate.

The recent death in the Humphry family, referred to in the letter, was that of William Ozias Humphry in 1826. On this occasion there it a letter from Francis Woodgate to his cousin Lady Ashburnham:—

"Tunbridge, May 29th, 1826.

My dear Lady Ashburnham,

The very unfavourable reports we had heard for some Days previous to your poor Brother's decease had prepared us to expect the melancholy intelligence your Letter of yesterday communicates. The change to my departed friend is no doubt an enviable one, but the loss his afflicted Wife & Family have sustained is irreparable, & most sensibly do we feel for them on this mournful occasion. The last hours of your poor Brother being passed in so composed & comfortable a manner must be a source of great consolation to you all. It grieves us to hear such a sad account of your dear Maryanne; we most sincerely pray you will shortly send us happier tidings. I am rejoiced to find your good Mother bears up against this heavy affliction with so much fortitude. If I can render any assistance to any of you, pray don't hesitate to inform me. Mrs. Woodgate I am sorry to say is far from being well. Four of the children have the Hooping cough so badly it is quite distressing to witness their sufferings. Our united regards & best wishes attend all your circle, & believe me, my dear Lady Ashburnham, yrs very sincerely,

F. Woodgate."

Sealed with the Woodgate crest, beneath which are the letters F.W.

Francis Woodgate meanwhile, about the end of 1820, had quitted Nutfield and removed to his house at Tonbridge, Ferox Hall, a large red brick and stone house built and lately sold by the Childrens. The house is a handsome, square, Georgian building nearly opposite the school. It was built on or near the site of the old tithe barn, a building of the greatest antiquity, and honoured by Queen Elizabeth's resting there on her way to Eridge. Some of the fittings and old oak carving were removed to Ferox Hall.

To return, however, to the due sequence of events. The Streatfeild wedding is mentioned by Miss Humphry on 15th July, 1824, as being then imminent.

"Have you seen the Riverhill Family? We hear poor Sarah was so unwell during her stay in Town as to be attended by two medical men, but I am happy to say she is now much better. The Report here is that Anne is to be married in the course of a week, & that Captn. Streatfeild & his Bride are to proceed to Windsor to pass the Honey moon there, Doctor Clarke having offered them his House. Miss St. Croix had a visit from her eldest Brother last week, who is a particular friend of Dr. Clarke's; and beside his preferment at Windsor possesses the living of Tillington in Sussex. Mr. Ailing has been his curate for some years. I believe Miss St. Croix had her Information of Miss Ailing from this source. (see p. 85). Mr. F. Woodgate went to town to-day to bring Martha from Clapham, previous to Mrs. Willis' summer Excursion. One of Mrs. Woodgate's little Boys has been very Ill, little William, with the same disorder that poor Stephen has suffered so much from"; and again, in an undated letter :—

"Captn. Woodgate called here on Monday; he came to Tonbridge to stand for his Brother's little Boy, who was Christened on that day and named Alfred. Mr. & Mrs. F. Woodgate were the other Sponsors. They afterwards went to Riverhill and spent the Day there. Ann Woodgate was nearly recovered from her attack of Lumbago, but had not then ventured out. We hear from Mrs. Allnutt a very pleasant description of the House Captn. Streatfeild has hired. It is situated half a mile from South Park, ready furnished and fitted with every modern convenience & elegance. Captn. Woodgate informed us of another Wedding. Dr. Lipscomb is to be married before he leaves England to a Miss Pope, a connexion of Lord Coventry's Family. She is said to be a very pleasing young Woman of about thirty, & her Brother is to accompany the Bishop to Jamaica as Archdeacon."

The next event of importance was the double marriage in the Woodgate and Lipscomb (f) families.

On 30th September, 1824, Sarah Woodgate married the Rev. Francis Lipscomb, son of the Rev. William Lipscomb, Vicar of Wilbury, Yorkshire. Francis eventually succeeded his father at Wilbury. The marriage was at Sevenoaks, performed by Christopher Lipscomb, Bishop of Jamaica and brother of Francis, in the presence of Henry Woodgate and Henry Lipscomb. Francis Lipscomb's cure at Sevenoaks was the district known as the Weald. The settlement was dated 29th September, 1829; and the Trustees were Francis and John Woodgate and William Lipscomb.

- (f) For a reference to these Lipscombs, of Hampshire, see Conan Doyle's *White Company*. The Rev. William Lipscomb, vicar of Wilbury, Yorks., married Margaret Cook, sister of Captain Cook of the *Bellerophon*, killed at Trafalgar. Their children were :—
 Christopher, New Coll., Oxford, 1800; M.A. 1811; D.D. 1824; Dean of Arts 1822; Bursar 1823; Fellow until 1825; Vicar of Sutton Berger, Wilts., 1818; Bishop of Jamaica 1824 until his death, 4th April, 1843. He offered the Archdeaconry to the Rev. William Streatfeild, who declined it; and the appointment was subsequently accepted by the Rev. Edward Pope, the Bishop's brother-in-law.
 Edwin, Commander R.N.
 Cyril, New Coll., Oxford, Fellow 1812 until his death, 25th September, 1815.
 Francis, m. Sarah Woodgate, see above. Their eldest son Francis was at Rugby, and St. John's Coll., Oxford.
 William, Deputy Surveyor of Delamere Forest, Cheshire, d. 1857—leaving Henry Curteis, 56 years Vicar of Staindrop and Hon. Canon, d. April, 1904; William, 50 years agent for the Savile estate, Yorkshire, d. September, 1904; and the Rev. Edwin Francis Lipscomb, now living, one of the few remaining persons who served under the old East India Company, (he sailed for Bombay early in 1849); and two daughters, now living.
 Katherine Jane, m. Major John Woodgate, and
 Sarah, m. Rev. Thomas Sackville Curteis, Rector of Sevenoaks.
 The Lipscomb crest, we are told, is a dove with wings addorsed or displayed; the motto, "Simplices sunt columbae."
 We believe that the Rev. Edwin Francis Lipscomb is engaged in preparing some memoirs for the press; if so, his extended experience must have acquainted him with much that is of interest to his family and relations.

The other marriage was that of John Woodgate, who married on 1st March, 1825, Katherine Jane, youngest daughter of the Rev. William Lipscomb.

“ Tunbridge, Oct. 17, 1824.

Mr. & Mrs. Lipscomb came to Riverhill on Friday; they ventured in a Steam Packet from Ramsgate to London & found this mode of conveyance very Pleasant. They took leave of the Bishop & his Lady who were to be in readiness to sail on Wednesday. Miss Lipscomb has lately had the measles, and the accounts on Saturday were so unfavourable that John thought it right to go to Camberwell yesterday. Sarah is to join him to-morrow and to remain to nurse her sister in law. Mr. Lipscomb is afraid of going with her, never having had this disorder. It is an unfortunate commencement for poor Sarah. Poor Mrs. Francis [Woodgate] has been suffering a good deal lately, & been obliged to have recourse to her old remedy of being bled with leeches. . . . Juliana Humphry.”

“ 16 Nov., 1824

Mr. Francis Woodgate has lately been in town. I spent a long day with Mrs. Francis during his absence, & never see her without her regretting not being able to accept your kind Invitation. My Uncle & Mrs. Lipscomb came to Tunbridge on Friday to visit their Friends here; they were both in excellent spirits, and Sarah considered to be looking particularly well. I called on Mrs. Richard Streatfeild with the Postern Party, but unfortunately she was not at Home. I went over her House with Mrs. Allnutt, which is pleasantly situated at the end of South Park. (Julia Humphry.)”

19th December, 1824. “ I called on Mrs. Francis Woodgate yesterday & found her in good spirits & very comfortable. She desired her kind love to Maryanne & regretted much not having the Pleasure of seeing her when she call'd. We had a visit on Thursday from Capt. & Mrs. Streatfeild; Anne made many enquiries after you all, & said she should make a point of visiting Seal the first time she went to Riverhill.” (Julia Humphry.)

16th February, 1825, Seal. “ We were quite gratified in seeing our friends from Riverhill who kindly spent the morning with us last Thursday. Anne is looking remarkably well, her spirits not at all subdued, & appearing to possess *perfect conjugal felicity*. Capt. Streatfeild was of the Party, & we all think him a very *pleasant, good humoured & gentlemanly* man. Poor Sarah is looking very delicate.” (Frances Humphry.)

26th April, 1826, Seal. “ My Uncle walked from Riverhill and back again, & spent the Morning here yesterday. This is a wonderful exertion for a man on the verge of 80. Mr. & Mrs. Lipscomb give up their House early in June, when they purpose going into Yorkshire. Mr. Lipscomb stays 2 or 3 months & leaves Sarah till the Spring. Her family do not approve the plan, as she is again likely to increase her family, & they think her health too delicate to be separated from her friends for so long a time.” (Frances Humphry.)

Mr. Petley's mother died in October 1825. The following Spring the Petley's took possession of Riverhead.

10th May, 1826. Seal. “ Mr. & Mrs. Petley with their family went to Hastings to-day for a month. On their return they take possession of the House at Riverhead. My Uncle, Capt. & Mrs. John Woodgate with their little Boy (one of the sweetest children I ever saw) made us a visit this morning. John is looking remarkably well & appears as happy as possible.” (Frances Humphry.)

21st November, 1826. Seal. “ I accompanied Mrs. Nouaille to River Hill one day last week, & was fortunate in seeing Mrs. Lipscomb & her baby, who really does credit to her maternal care. She appeared anxious to take possession of their new House, & said that six fires had been lighted to dry it for their reception, therefore I hope Miss Lightfoot's *apprehensions* have *subsided*.” (Maryanne Humphry.)

Rose Woodgate, who died in January, 1827, left by will one-fourth of an estate in Cowden and Hartfield, called the Moat, to her brother Henry Woodgate, subject nevertheless to the payment of £100 to each of his six children, and £50 each to Denny and George Ashburnham. The remaining three-fourths was devised to the Humphrys.

After one or two attempts to sell privately, it was put up to auction by Palmer, France & Palmer of 24, Bedford Row, the Solicitors of the Humphry family. Their measures were not sufficiently vigorous for Henry Woodgate, who writes as follows :—

“ Wednesday, 4th July, 1827.

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

Are you still without any Intelligence from Mr. Palmer? If nothing has been done, I shall think him dilatory beyond all Precedent. It will very soon be too late to shew the Property to Advantage. The Farm *now* may have a rich & luxuriant Appearance, & therefore Mr. Palmer shod be pressed to lose no time in bringing it to the Hammer. As the Morning Herald has more Advertisements for the Sale of property than any other Paper, I have daily examined mine in the Hope of finding one to attract public notice, but hitherto I have been disappointed. If you don't *teize rattle & ferret* this *slothful* Lawyer, the Business will never be brought to a conclusion. I hope this will find you better than when Sarah called on you, & that you & Fanny are now quite well, & with our united love, I remain ever affectionately yours H.W.”

He writes again, a few days later :—

“ Thursday, 12th July [1827].

My dear Fanny,

Mr. George Austen informs me “ by the Presentments on the Court Rolls of the Manor of Lewisham ” that a Relief of two Quit Rents (witht mentioning the amount, which by the bye must be trifling) is payable to the Lord on every *death* or *alienation*, but no Heriots are paid.

I hope yr Mother continues quite well, & that you & yr Companion were not fatigued with yr *Journey*, though Jenny required so much of the Lash; & I hope you had a pleasant Evening at Mrs. Burton's. James is not yet returned from Leatherhead.”

On another occasion, about August, he recalls the circumstance of the old tenant of Rickwoods farm, part of the Moat, regularly riding over to Mountfield to pay his rent. He says: “ I wish you to give such Instructions as you *think proper*, as my Interest is too trifling to interfere upon this occasion. Whatever you may do, I shall be satisfied. I am happy to say that Sarah's little Boy is doing well & *very much improved*. Mr. & Mrs. Willis, Frank & Martha called here to Day & made us a long Morning visit. They all go to Dover next Week to make John Ponton's House *alive*.”

There is a note, undated, from Mrs. Lipscomb about this period.

“ My dear Mrs. Humphry, I feel quite ashamed of having kept your Donkey so long, & beg you will accept our best thanks for your great kindness in allowing us to do so; it has distressed me very much, I assure you, to deprive you of it for so long a time, & I am afraid it has put you to much inconvenience. I am sure you will be sorry to hear that my darling Child is very ill. Mr. Nelson thinks him in a very precarious state indeed, & apprehends he has symptoms of water in the head, & these symptoms I grieve to say increase every day. My Brother & Mrs. Frank are just come, & therefore I hope you will excuse this short & hurried note, & with our very best regards believe me, my dear Aunt, your obliged & affectionate Niece,
Sarah Lipscomb.

I hope to hear by the Bearer that you are all quite well.”

Here is another note from Henry Woodgate :—

“ Friday, 23rd November [1827].

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

As you desired Mr. Waterhouse to call on me a few Days since with his Rent, you may think it a little queer that you have not heard from me. The Fact is, he came here just as we were going to Dinner, & as He said He shod be up again in a Week or ten Days, I desired to defer the Conference & refused to receive the Rent, & hope in doing so I have done nothing wrong. What a sudden alteration in the Weather ! No longer ago than Thursday I was writing to Mr. Acton, when I remarked how wonderfully fine the weather had been, and that *that* day was more like May than Novr. Our dear Sarah has been very ill lately & for some time confined to her bed, but I am happy to say we have had a better Acct of her this Mornng. James will bring you a very fine Hare killed *yesterday* & a pheasant killed on *Monday* last ; in such weather as the present, it would keep for a Month. As you are fond of Rabbits I have ordered James (before he starts) to endeavour with his Ferrets to procure you a couple, but it is uncertain whether he will succeed.”

The following also is from Henry Woodgate.

“ January 4th, 1828.

Dear Mrs. Humphry,

. . . Captain Streatfeild & Anne came here yesterday & went off at 11 o'clock to call at Riverhead, & to-morrow they mean to visit Sarah & return from thence to Chiddingstone to Dinner. James will bring you a Hare killed yesterday, which I hope will prove a good one. Mr. Allen has sent me very little Game for many weeks past.”

The Moat was withdrawn at the auction, and Henry sold his share to Mrs. Humphry for £1,378, being for one-third of the Kentish part and one-sixth of the Sussex part ; small interests in the Moat were outstanding, even in Rose Woodgate's time, in her brother. There were also sums due for back rent ; and also the value of the timber, which was considerable.

“ Riverhill, 17th January [1828].

My dear Fanny,

I have no wish to see the Draft of the Conveyance of my Share of the Moat Farm or any desire to have it forwarded to any Professional Man on my behalf, as Mr. Palmer is so honourable a Man & so correct in his Practice that I have no doubt he will give satisfaction both to your Mother & myself. As the Ground was dry & favoured pedestrianism, I got home just in time to escape a scolding & not much fatigued, frequently telling James that I was afraid I walked too fast for him. What a lamentable Day we have got ; the Ground was never known to be so *rotten*. The valley has been for weeks past under water, & much mischief it is feared will be done. Pray press Mr. Palmer for Expedition, as we are all *agog* for our Legacy. The poor King seems pestered to Death, & it may truly be said “ Uneasy lies the Head that wears a Crown.”

“ Riverhill, Feby. 5th, 1828.

My dear Fanny,

I got Home yesterday half an Hour before my Son arrived in his Vehicle, & not more fatigued with my Walk than He & his Companion in their *Sociable*. Frank advised me before he left Riverhill to write to Mr. Palmer upon our Business, & as I do not like to do anything in this affair without your Priority, I subjoin a copy of my Letter. . . .” He states incidentally, in this, that Messrs. Willis & Co. of Lombard Street were his Bankers.

In April, 1828, it seems that Sir William and Lady Ashburnham spent a short time at Riverhill. Sir William writes from Broomham, on the 10th,

“ I was happy to see my Uncle Henry looking so well ; he received us most cordially, & seemed particularly glad to see Julia. I am sorry to add that he repre-

sents Mrs. Woodgate as being very poorly. She had not left her bed when we were at River-hill. On our way to Tunbridge we met Mr. Francis Woodgate walking towards River-hill. He showed Julia a letter which his son Thomas had written to Mr. Ponton. The young man writes in great spirits, & appears to be much pleased with the profession he has embraced. He says he is studying the life of Nelson, a good model for a young Sailor to have in view. Our first visit at Tunbridge was to Dry-hill. . . . When we left Dryhill we called first upon Mrs. Francis Woodgate and then we paid our respects to Lady Hardinge at the Vicarage. At Ferox-hall I was introduced to Mrs. John Ponton and her daughters; I think the latter are very pleasing girls. Mrs. Francis Woodgate appeared tolerably well, and said she was going to take a drive to Tunbridge Wells."

In July of 1830 the Francis Woodgates were at St. Leonards. Their visit to Broomham is described in a letter of Lady Ashburnham's of the 16th:—

"I was surprised last Saturday by a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Francis Woodgate, accompanied by their second son and Martha. They were passing a week at St. Leonards with the younger part of their Family for the benefit of sea air. Never having been at Broomham before, they were much interested in seeing the House and Place. They spoke in terms of high approbation of St. Leonards & think it will far surpass Hastings or any Place of public resort on this coast. Mr. & Mrs. Lipscomb were also here the beginning of the week; they have taken lodgings in Pelham Crescent for a Month."

In August, 1830, Mr. Petley died (g). On 1st September Frances Humphry writes:—"I had a kind note from Mrs. Richard Streatfeild a few days ago. We rejoice to find poor Mrs. Petley supports her sad bereavement with so much fortitude and resignation. Her sister says she has lost the kindest & best of husbands, but they have much to be thankful for. Mrs. Nouaille is going to Riverhill to-morrow to enquire after my Uncle & Aunt. Poor Mrs. Lipscomb is unfortunately confined to her bed with rheumatism."

Not many months afterwards Mrs. Woodgate of Riverhill died. On 15th April, 1831, Frances Humphry, writing to Lady Ashburnham, says:—

"You will be concerned to hear our poor Aunt Woodgate is very seriously ill. I was at Riverhill last week, when I saw her for a few minutes only, and thought her in a very weak languid state, since which her illness has daily assumed a more alarming aspect. She now scarcely takes any nourishment; and is thought to be rapidly sinking. All her children have been with her but John, and my Aunt begs he may not be sent for, as his wife is daily expecting to be confined of her fifth child. Mrs. Petley is staying at Riverhill, and Mrs. Nouaille very kindly takes her sons Henry and John during the absence of their Mamma. Capt'n. Streatfeild has just been here; he states my Aunt to be perfectly aware of her situation, in a most happy frame of mind, and evincing the utmost resignation to the Divine will. To each

(g) In Sevenoaks Church there is a stone, with the Petley arms and crest at the head, and the motto "Toujours pret," with the following inscription subjoined:—

Petley,
1814.
Charles Carter Petley
Born 20 Jan., 1780. Died 28 August, 1830.
Ellen, wife of the above
Born 8 Novr, 1781. Died 3rd Decr., 1839.
Catherine Ellen, daughter of
Charles Robert Carter Petley
Born 24th Feby., 1850. Died 5th August, 1852.

Arms: "Argent, two bends engrailed sable; a canton of the second." The crest is a mailed hand holding a scimitar by the blade.

of her children she has given little memorials of her affection. My Uncle, as might be anticipated, is greatly distressed at the prospect of losing his faithful companion of more than fifty years ; ”

And again, a few days later :—

“ Seal, April 25th, 1831.

“ You will have heard from Mr. Francis Woodgate that the awful scene at Riverhill closed on Saturday evening, when my poor Aunt breathed her last. She was surrounded by her family, whose affectionate attentions must have soothed and alleviated the sufferings of her bed of sickness. When John heard of the state of his Mother, he set out immediately for Riverhill and arrived yesterday week. Altho’ my poor Uncle was in some measure prepared for such a termination, yet his naturally sanguine disposition led him to indulge hope, and therefore we fear the shock will be very great and earnestly hope his health will not suffer in consequence. The funeral of my poor Aunt is to take place here on Saturday next at two o’clock. Will you have the goodness by a line to inform Maryanne of her decease.”

Ellen Woodgate was buried at Seal on 30th April, 1831, aged 79 years.

On 5th May, Frances Humphry writes to Lady Ashburnham : “ The Funeral of our late Aunt was very private, attended by her two sons, Capt. Streatfeild & Mr. Lipscomb. Mr. Francis, John, and all the domesticks were at Seal Church on Sunday. They called here afterwards, and I am concerned to say gave a very indifferent account of my poor Uncle, who is quite overpowered with grief. John lamented the necessity of leaving his Father under such distressing circumstances ; he was to start by the Mail Sunday night, & hoped to reach home on Tuesday, when he expected to find an increase to his family during his absence.”

On 15th May she writes again :—

“ I went to River Hill a few days ago to see my poor Uncle. He was much affected at first meeting, but gradually became more composed, and is perhaps as well as can be expected after such a bereavement. Mrs. Petley and Mrs. Richd. Streatfeild were there, and I hope his children will contrive to be with him as much as possible.”

In 1831 Henry Woodgate, not yet recovered from the loss of his wife and bowed down with old age, found himself involved in serious financial difficulties. Perhaps after his wife’s decease the income of her property had passed to the children, which brought matters to a crisis. No mere conjecture however will account for this collapse. It does not appear that his style of living had been unduly expensive (for he undoubtedly had a very fine income), or that he was addicted to any particular form of extravagance.

Under his marriage settlement he had acquired Riverhill, besides any interest he might have enjoyed in his wife’s £80,000. In addition to this, his father had left him by will lands in Sevenoaks, Leigh, Chidingstone, and Seal, and Howgreen in Heaver and Brasted, the ancient family estate of the Birstys. In 1787 his uncle Henry Woodgate of Summerhill left him the manor and estate of Dryhill in Chevening and Sundridge, some valuable property in Tunbridge, and some shares in the Medway Navigation Co. All this, and benefits from others of his relations and as much as had not been settled, seems to have been spent by 1830. In 1829 he sold off some houses in Tunbridge Wells.

The leading Equity case of *Acton v. Woodgate*, decided in the Rolls Court before Leach M.R., and the facts therein recited, shed considerable light on the position. It there appears that one of the creditors was Henry’s nephew John Acton, of Car Mount, who had advanced various sums, from £100 in 1785 to £2,400 in 1792, and £500 in 1812. Henry Woodgate was likewise indebted on the foot of a running account with his great nephew William Woodgate and James Currie, partners in the firm of Currie, Williams & Woodgate of Lincoln’s Inn, Solicitors, to the extent

of £20,000 or more; and was under liabilities to others, including various capital and annual sums under the marriage settlements of his children.

Being desirous of freeing himself from this load of incumbrances, Henry Woodgate in October, 1831, conveyed all his real estate in Sevenoaks, Shipborne, Leigh, Tonbridge, and Seal, and personal estate (except of course the settled property and the household furniture, plate, linen, china, wearing apparel, and certain horses and carriages), to trustees for sale. Riverhill was entailed on the eldest son; but Francis, we are told, executed a disentailing assurance to break the entail. Henry however reserved to himself for the remainder of his life the house and grounds of Riverhill and 120 acres of land adjoining, and took a charge over the residue of £100 a year. The trustees, Woodgate and Currie, were to pay off all the debts and hand over the balance monies to Henry.

On 3rd December, 1831, Frances Humphry writes:—

“ On Monday I called on my Uncle and found him looking better, and more cheerful than for some time past. Mrs. Petley says it will be her earnest endeavour to promote the comfort of his declining days. The establishment at Riverhill is broken up, and a sale of the household effects takes place the 13th and 14th of this month.”

In December, 1833, Francis Woodgate was dangerously ill, and had to be removed to London. On the 3rd, Frances Humphry writes:—

“ We rejoice to learn *some* improvement has taken place in the health of Mr. Francis Woodgate, notwithstanding which we learn from Mrs. Petley that Dr. Paris still considers him in a precarious state. His son Thomas is recently returned home, and his ship is to be paid off, which the family regret, as he has no prospect of professional employment again at present.”

And again, on the 16th December:—

“ With much concern I inform you the accounts of poor Mr. Francis Woodgate are very unfavourable. Mrs. Petley went to see him on Wednesday last, & was much shocked at the alteration three weeks had effected. He was in tolerable spirits, and so patient that he never uttered a complaint, but so weak as scarcely to be able to sit up in his bed, and what little nourishment he takes is forced upon him. I fervently hope a blessing may attend the means used for his restoration, as I do not know a life of more value to his family. It appears extraordinary Mrs. Francis Woodgate should not be in Town when her husband is so seriously indisposed.”

13th January, 1834. (Sir William Ashburnham). “ When in London, I went to Hill Street and saw Mr. Francis Woodgate, whom I have the satisfaction to say is progressively improving in health, though he is sadly altered in appearance since I saw him at Tunbridge. Mr. Woodgate told me his physician Dr. Maton had pronounced him to be convalescent. This is as favourable a report as could be expected.”

11th February, 1834. (Miss Humphry). “ Mrs. Nouaille was surprized by a visit from Mr. Francis Woodgate (accompanied by his daughter Martha) yesterday. He considers himself much better, but is so feeble and aged in appearance that she says he looks ten years older than his Father.”

It would seem that Mrs. Petley lived at Riverhill with her two sons during the remainder of her father's life. He died at Riverhill on 21st September, 1834, aged 87, and was buried at Seal on 29th September.

Francis Woodgate was appointed residuary legatee and devisee and sole executor of his father's will. As however he had already conveyed the bulk of his property to Trustees, and nothing of any consequence passed under the will, Francis declined to prove it, and probate was never obtained. A limited administration of trust estates was afterwards taken out. In 1846 Palmer, France & Palmer on making a request for information, obtained a reply from Messrs Currie, Williams & Woodgate that they had the will and would supply them with a copy, likewise with a copy of Francis Woodgate's will.

There is one more letter from Francis Woodgate, directed to Miss Humphry at Greatness, and dated from Tonbridge 2nd December, 1835. It concerns chiefly a declaration of trust. He concludes, "We shall be rejoiced to welcome you to Ferox Hall whenever you please, & depend upon your making us a sociable visit. Sir William & Lady Ashburnham dined with us yesterday, & we shall have the pleasure of meeting them at the Castle to-day. With kind regards to you and our Friends at Greatness, Believe me, my dear Fanny, very truly yours

F. Woodgate."

In July, 1739, Miss Humphry describes a visit to her friends in Kent, when she met the Woodgates at Tonbridge.

"I went to Tonbridge for the night, and saw many of our friends (viz.): Mr. and Mrs. Francis Woodgate and four of their young people, our friends at the Castle, the Knoxes, Miss Duden and Susan. Mrs. F. Woodgate said your letters had furnished her with amusement for some time. Martha Woodgate has been passing three months with her cousins Mr. & Mrs. Willis at Sydenham, during which time she was only in London twice, and regretted it was not in her power to call upon you. The services of our old servant John are so necessary to the comfort of Mrs. Macleod that Mr. Petley has fitted up a room for his wife and child to live with him in the house. Lady Crichton said she had requested Mrs. Petley to thank you for the pretty flower rug you had sent her."

Mrs. Francis Woodgate died in 1842, aged 55; and her husband died the following year, aged 61. They had, altogether, twelve children, of whom four died young. The only surviving daughter, Martha, married Charles Robert Carter Petley of Riverhead. Of the sons, Francis, Henry, and Stephen were at Tonbridge school. Francis, the eldest, succeeded his father and lived at Underriver, Seal.

Henry, the second son, at Tonbridge school, 1822-7, became a solicitor and practised first in London on the Surrey side of the Thames, afterwards in Sackville Street, and subsequently at Romsey, Hampshire. He died at Bexley Heath, Kent. It is believed that he had a daughter, Eleanor, married about 1870.

Thomas, the third, entered the Navy, and was promoted to the rank of Commander in 1843. He married Miss Walker, and resided at Box, where he died leaving two sons who died during their minority and a daughter.

Stephen, at Tonbridge School 1826-8, married, and died prior to 1886. William married twice; Alfred; and Edward, married in Australia.

There is a letter from Sir John Ashburnham on "the death of Mr. Francis Woodgate, an event at which I am truly sorry; for though I had not the pleasure of much acquaintance with him, I have always entertained a great respect for him. His decease must be a great deprivation to his family, and a matter of regret to all his friends."

There is a hatchment in Tonbridge Church erected on the death of Mrs. Woodgate, displaying the arms of Woodgate and Birsty quarterly impaling Ponton, and the motto "Gloria et Deo." In this, the *field* and acorns in the Woodgate coat are emblazoned *or*. We were lately informed by the Vicar of Tonbridge that this hatchment was falling to pieces for lack of attention. Many of the other hatchments in the church had been renovated and restored; but that the sum of five pounds was required to restore this hatchment, a work which could not be undertaken without assistance from some of the family. The hatchment is still, we believe, in its dilapidated state.

The Battersea property was sold at the wrong time; had it been realized with judgment the proceeds would have been very much more than they were. Even so, there was a large sum which was divided, we believe, equally among all the children; and the bulk of Francis Woodgate's original Woodgate property went to Francis his eldest son.

The latter was at Tonbridge School from 1822-7, and married at St. George's, Hanover Square, in 1834, a lady of considerable fortune, Mary daughter of Mr. Taylor of Tonbridge. We believe that her father was William Taylor, Master of the Skinners Company; his son Skinner Taylor died while at Tonbridge School. He had been born while his father was Master, and took his name according to ancient custom, from the Company. Another son, John Aird Taylor, born 1815, gained a Judd Exhibition from Tonbridge to Worcester College, Oxford.

Francis Woodgate died at his London house, in Westbourne Terrace, and was buried at Seal. The large clock now in Seal Church was his gift to the parish. In the churchyard is a stone cross, bearing this legend: "In memory of Francis Woodgate, late of Underriver, who departed this life January 14th, 1855, aged 45 years. Mary, wife of the above, who departed this life July 27th, 1853, aged 42 years. Francis Woodgate, Capt. late 2nd Life Guards, eldest son of Francis and Mary Woodgate, who departed this life September 19th, 1876 aged 40 years. 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'."

To return, however, to the daughters of Henry Woodgate of Riverhill. We have a letter from Miss Humphry in July, 1837, describing her visit to the Allnatts at Penshurst. "Mrs. Allnutt," she says, "took me a drive in her open carriage. Our first visit was to Capt. & Mrs. Streatfeild at Hever. Anne shewed us all over her house, which is a very pretty abode in the summer, and they have made it replete with convenience. Our cousin is as cheerful and jocose as ever; she made many enquiries after you, and desired her kind love. Little Ellen is much grown and improved, and under the tuition of her Governess proceeding with her education in a satisfactory manner. She rides on Horseback, and frequently accompanies her Papa in his equestrian excursions. . . . I paid a very agreeable visit to Mrs. Petley and was happy to find her much improved in health. Her sons are most obliging pleasant young men, and Henry very regular and persevering in his mental attainments. Mr. & Mrs. Lipscomb and their two eldest little boys were expected at Sevenoaks the early part of this month, and the sisters were anticipating much pleasure from the meeting."

24th July, 1838, (Miss Humphry). "Mrs. Petley has derived great benefit from Hastings. She drove over to Broomham one morning and walked round the Gardens, which she admired very much. We saw her sons frequently; they are both very agreeable promising young men. Henry is much improved in health; he has lately taken his degree, and intends studying Divinity at Oxford for two years previous to taking Orders."

16th April, 1839. (Miss Humphry). "I have lately received a sociable letter from Mrs. Petley. Her son Henry is looking out for a title for Orders, and is anxious to obtain a curacy in a situation where his Mother could reside with him, having relinquished a hundred a year at Oxford for this purpose."

In 1840 there is a long letter from Mrs. Nouaille describing the New Year's Ball at Sevenoaks*.

"John Petley came from Chatham, and was delighted [with the ball]. He is much grown in height & very thin; he expects to be sent to New South Wales. On Tuesday the Petleys received the first despatches from Capt. Petley, bringing intelligence of their safe arrival at Barbadoes, all well; the winds have been so high that the family have suffered much anxiety for their safety. Jane Petley is here, & next week goes to Mrs. Wilgress for a few days to meet Ellen Streatfeild [Mrs. Richard Streatfeild's only child], and then poor Jane returns to Miss Scot's School at Brighton. Next year she is to be introduced. I was at Riverhead last week and saw your old cook Marchant, and learned she is giving great satisfaction at Mr. Petley's. I have had a long letter from cousin John Woodgate of Liverpool; his wife is expecting an increase to her family, making *ten*. He has injured a tendon of his left arm

* See Reference Sheet.



The late FRANCIS WOODGATE, Esq. of Underriver.

from which he is recovering. He says he lately heard from Miss Cleaton that our Cousin Acton is in good health, but this winter he keeps much indoors—a proof he feels the effect of Time. One of John Woodgate's sons in Christ's Hospital has distinguished himself & obtained a *medal*. His name is Christopher Frederick Woodgate, & he is a very promising youth. This is very gratifying to his Parents & Friends."

There is one more letter, from Mrs. Lipscomb, dated from Wilbury, 18th December, 1840.

"My dear Lady Ashburnham,

It is such a very long time since I have heard of you, I cannot resist writing to enquire after Sir Wm., yourself, & sisters. When my dear sister Petley was living, I frequently did, as she always mentioned the friends she knew I was interested about. I hear from my dear nephew Henry occasionally; he seems to like Glynde very much. He is in London now, to be ordained priest at Lambeth next Sunday. He will see his Uncle & cousins, as Mr. Lipscomb is gone to London for a fortnight to see the Bishop of Jamaica before he leaves England, and took his two boys on from Rugby with him, as their Uncle wished to see them. The Bishop was here in November, and two more of Mr. Lipscomb's brothers at the same time, a nice *fraternal* party. He is in excellent health, really wonderful after being 15 years in that trying Climate. He is beginning, since the emancipation, to reap the reward of his labours in that Colony; he has to select 40 curates at £300 a year each, and he had above a hundred candidates. This is really *choosing* his own society. He preached a beautiful sermon at York, for the Society for promoting C.K. which the Archbishop begged might be printed; he, as well as my husband who met him at York, was staying with his Grace some days at Bishop's Thorpe. There never was so large a collection made on any occasion of the kind before. We have two pupils; a nephew of Capt. Bedingfield—you know him, I believe; he did live in Sussex. He is an orphan, and lives with his Grandfather Col. Bedingfield 10 miles from us; and a son of Mr. Gooch, who is connected with the Archbishop of York, his sister having married his Son. This enables us to send our boys to Rugby, where they are getting on very well. Henry has risen most rapidly in the School this half year; he is the little sick baby you so kindly recd at Broomham, which I always remember with thankfulness & gratitude, as under Providence it was instrumental to his restoration to health. Dr Wilmot who prescribed for him is dead I believe. Mary is what her excellent godmother Mrs. Cornwallis prayed she might be, a comfort & blessing to me. She is *very* lively & cheerful, & forward in most things for eleven & a $\frac{1}{2}$; my two little boys healthy, good & dutiful. We shall very soon have a railroad from Nth Allerton to York, which place we can then reach in two hours & a $\frac{1}{2}$, & we can be in London in eleven hours. How our ancestors would stare, who formerly made their *wills* before such a Journey. No place will be retired soon. Mr. L. and my boys went from London to Rugby, 80 miles, in *three hours*. We paid Mr. Acton a visit for a week this summer at his pretty place Carr Mount near Whitby; he sent us a pressing invitation by Mrs. J. Woodgate, who went to see him. It was a great pleasure to me to see him again: he is a very fine hearty and handsome old Man. Miss Cleaton is rather a curiosity. We also went to the sea with all our children to a very pretty little place, quite *Hastings* in miniature, which made me like it. I think I shall quite have tired you with this long account of myself & Family, but I trust & hope you will favour me with the same of yourself &c. which will give me great pleasure. I beg to be kindly remembered to Sir Wm. & your sister Fanny, & believe me, dear Julia, yours very affectionately,

Sarah Lipscomb."

Our remaining information is gathered from a succession of letters written by Mrs. Nouaille or Anne.

4th April, 1846. "Henry Petley has been for a little while at Riverhead, Underriver &c & called here on Friday 27th March, informing us he was to embark

at Southampton on the 3rd inst, in the "Royal Tar" steam vessel of the Oriental Steam Company. I thought much of him yesterday, & heartily hope he may have a prosperous voyage & tour to the Holy Land, Syria & Egypt. Mrs. Petley [Martha Woodgate] took her Babe to Town on 28th, the child not thriving as they cou'd wish. Dr Locock assured them all was right, only great care was necessary. I think Mrs. Petley looks thin & poorly, but anxiety for her Babe may cause it. It is a very delicate little child."

12th August 1846. "This morning Mrs. Allnutt accompanied me to Under-river. We found Mr. Francis Woodgate remarkably well; the eldest Boy has left Mr Wallace, & they are seeking a school for him. The Eldest Girl is placed with the Miss Wallace's, & the 2nd Boy with Mr. Wallace. They are all very fine good children, & I think very handsome. Everything is so nice & so very comfortable at Under-river. I walked round their Garden; they have a beautiful Green house & all the Flowers most gay & splendid, but alas! the disease is amongst the potatoes & it was very sad to look on them. The Petleys have been paying a long visit to their Brother Capt. Thos. Woodgate, who has been very ill, but recovering. I conclude you have seen in the Paper the Marriage of the youngest Daughter of the late Mr. John Ponton, & Mr. Austen, the 3rd son of Sir Henry Austen, a Surrey Family."

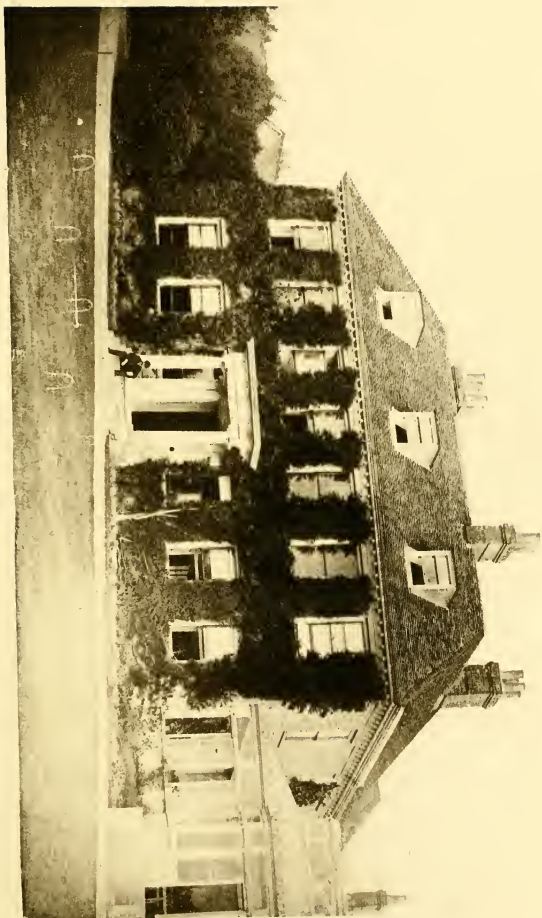
14th April, 1855. "Yesterday we had a visit from Capt. Tom Woodgate & his wife. He is much engaged with a Phosphate manure Company. We hear but a poor account of Mrs. Lipscomb." (Anne Nouaille).

10th January, 1857. "Mrs. Richard Streatfeild has been for her annual visit to Mrs. Lightfoot at Sevenoaks; she is looking remarkably well, & is delighted with her little grandson. The Petleys are all well, but Martha looks delicate. My Brother's little godson is a sweet child, and so extremely good. Henry Petley came to Riverhead for the Christening, but could not stay to dinner, having an engagement in Town. He had made up his mind to quit Woodchurch, and would leave in three months; his future plans are not settled, but he had some intention of going abroad. Young Frank Woodgate of Under-river is to come of age this month. It is difficult matter to provide a suitable home for his sisters, and nothing at present is settled respecting it. The third Boy is at Harrow. Mrs. F. Lipscomb during the summer was very poorly, and nothing appeared to rouse or animate her, but she is now much better. Her son John has got a desirable tutorship in a family at Portland Place." (Anne Nouaille).

John Woodgate, for some time after his marriage, lived at Leatherhead in Surrey. After his father's death he applied to the War Office for some appointment, and was given the Paymastership of Liverpool, worth £500 a year. One of his Lipscomb nephews writes of him, "I will venture to say no one of the name ever upheld the honour of the family more than he did; he was a man of high integrity. . . . My Uncle frequently told me of the early days in Kent, for he was proud of the ancestry of his family." He held his appointment for thirty years, when he retired to pass the rest of his days at Sanabach. When he resigned, the War Office wrote intimating that Major Woodgate was the best Paymaster they had had.

John Acton, the eldest (surviving) son, was destined for the Church, and with that end in view, after leaving Brasenose, read for some time with his cousin, Canon H. A. Woodgate, at Belbroughton. Lord Hardinge, at that time, offered the family a commission in the army, worth £500. Acton was the only son old enough to take it; so he relinquished all ideas of the Church, and was drafted off to take part in the Sikh War. He was killed at Chillianwallah; his body was discovered among the dead by his friend Henry Bradford (son of Sir John Bradford, the great cavalry leader, and nephew of Mrs. Henry Woodgate).

It may be said in conclusion that the descendants of Henry Woodgate of Riverhill may be found in every quarter of the globe.



UNDERRIVER HOUSE, near Sevenoaks, the Seat of Francis Woodgate, Esq.

CHAPTER IX.

RIDEOUT OF WESTMESTON.

Frances Woodgate, youngest daughter of the Rev. Francis Woodgate, born 1756, was married at Mountfield, by licence, to the Rev. Richard Rideout, Vicar of Westmeston in Sussex, by R. Constable, Curate of Mountfield. William Woodgate and Richard Whatt sign the registers. The Rideouts (*a*) were a good Sussex family settled for many years at Framfield Park.

Mr. Richard Rideout, the grandfather (apparently) of the Rev. Richard Rideout, held a responsible position at Lewes. He seems to have been Undersheriff, and confidential agent of the Duke of Newcastle, the Premier. The Pelhams had enormous influence in Sussex, and their agent must have been a man of some consequence. Among the Newcastle correspondence in the Brit. Museum are many letters to and from Mr. Rideout. In one of them Rideout proposes that Charles Smith, who was not likely to live long, should resign his place in the Customs, in favour of his (Rideout's) nephew Nicholas Willard, who should pay a certain sum out of it. He adds that Thomas, brother of Nicholas Willard, warmly approved the scheme.

In one of his letters, the Duke represents to Rideout the desirability of representing the Sheriff at the Assizes. As an interesting specimen of the correspondence, it is set out at length:—

“ To Richard Rideout Esq. Lewes.

“ Claremont, Augt. 12th, 1764.

Dear Sir, I am very much obliged to you for taking upon yourself at my request the trouble of representing the High Sheriff at the Assizes. I dare say it will be very agreeable to the judges as well as to the gentlemen of the County.

I am extremely sorry that the present state of the Duchess of Newcastle's health and the great loss which she has so lately had of her sister the Duchess of Leeds, which has very much affected her, will not permit me, as I fully intended, to wait upon the Judges and the gentlemen of the County at Horsham, or to be present at the horse races, and pay my respects to the gentlemen. I am sure their good nature will excuse me, and that they will impute it to the true reason, and not to any want of regard to them or desire to attend them.

(*a*) Richard Rideout married on 18th December, 1684, Sarah, daughter of Walter Dobell of Southover and Sarah his wife (Arms: Sable, a doe between three bells argent). Their son Richard of Framfield Park, and Anne his wife, had four children of whom Sarah died unmarried and was buried at Framfield 20th April, 1743; Anne, bapt. at Framfield, 2nd August, 1716; the Rev. John Rideout, B.C.L. Univ. Coll., Oxford, Rector of Woodmancote, Sussex, died at Lewes, 1804; and Richard.

(N.B.—In 1809 a Rev. John Rideout, Rector of Woodmancote, Sussex, married the daughter of Sir Harry Goring, Bart.)

Richard Rideout of Lewes was bapt. at Framfield 10th June, 1715, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Nicholas Willard of Chiddingley and widow of Richard Payne of Lewes. It was their son Richard who married Frances Woodgate.

The arms of Rideout are:—“ Azure, a trefoil slipt between three mullets argent.” Crest: a horse trotant saddled and stirrured.

Payne arms: “ Per fess, sable and argent, two lions passant guardant counterchanged.”

Stone at St. Peter and St. Mary, Lewes. “ Sacred to the memory of Richard Payne, late of this Parish, Esq., who died January the 17th, 1732, aged 39. Also of Richard Rideout, late of this Parish, Esq., who died April the 28th, 1767, aged 52.”

Mrs. Elizabeth Rideout, widow, was buried at Framfield, 28th April, 1767.

A Mr. Rideout was buried at Framfield 1st Oct., 1753.

As you represent the High Sheriff, I must beg that you would make my excuses in form to the Judges, Grand Jury, and the gentlemen that shall be at the Assizes. I hope there will be a good appearance of gentlemen at the Assizes and at the Horse races; and the same allowances will be given as when I am there. I shall send Greening down, who knows perfectly what used to be done.

I hope my Lord Ashburnham will be at the races. My nephew Mr. Shelley will be at both places. I have ordered a Buck and some carp for the judges, and a Buck for the High Sheriff, part of which, if you think proper, you may send to the Grand Jury. We are very low in venison; and we have not the assistance of Petworth Park. The venison will be at Horsham on Monday morning early. I am with great respect, dear Sir, your most affectionate humble Servant,

Holles Newcastle.

P.S. I have altered my mind; and have ordered a buck more, half to the grand jury and half to the counsel. So you may keep the High Sheriff's for yourself."

The proceedings finished up with a County Ball at Lewes, at which Miss Pelham of Brithelmstone was to do the honours.

The Rev. Richard Rideout had been curate² at Mountfield, and was presented to the living of Westmeston in 1783, and continued to hold it till 1809. He was also a Prebend of Chichester. It seems that the wedding party, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Rideout and the bride's sister Anne Woodgate, went straight from Mountfield to Westmeston, for the first letter extant is dated from Westmeston two days after the wedding, and addressed to his father-in-law.

"Westmeston, Oct. 28th, 1784.

My dear Sir,

'Tis with infinite satisfaction I can inform you that we arrived safe at Westmeston by 4 o'clock. We found no Difficulties on the Road as you may suppose by the time we reached our Destination. I must now, Sir, with unfeigned Gratitude, beg you you will accept my sincere Thanks for the important Charge you have committed to my Care, & hope by a tender attention to my Frances to merit that Esteem from you which I flatter myself I now possess. I am happy to tell you my House meets with great Commendation. Miss Anne was much delighted with the Prospect from the Hill. My *Visitors* are both perfectly well, which I pray God may long continue, and I have not another wish. My Father, Mother & Grandmother present their Compts to you & Mrs. Woodgate & return you many Thanks for some Cake which *we* sent them in your Names. We had a present of a very *curious* one from Brighton to day, according to the Bath fashion painted with *Hearts, Darts & Cupids*. I wish my dear little Fit cou'd see it as it wou'd delight her much. I was this Morn to make my Father & Mother a visit. I never saw them in such spirits before. My Brother comes to us to-morrow as my Father insists that *all shou'd be holyday*. I must tell you Mrs. Green came in unexpectedly whilst I was at Lewes; as soon as she saw me she scream'd out & *swore* I shou'd not salute her. The Consequence of so *positive a Declaration* you may easily imagine. After divers Questions she enquired what I had for dinner; she gave me great Credit for my Managemt, as Green & herself for want of Forecast were obliged to live on *Mutton Chops & Pudding Cake* for three weeks after Marriage. I must acquaint you that all the Plate is rubbing up at Lewes, & a Cup which has not seen Day light for *eighteen years* is to be produced on our visit to them. I need not say how happy we shou'd be to see you & Mrs. W. at Westmeston, but I fear a Father's Claim precedes his Son's. Fanny & Miss Anne join with me in Duty & Love to yourself, Mrs. W. & Miss Woodgate, not forgetting dear little Friend, & conclude me to be, my dear Sir,

Yours faithfully & affectionately,
Rd. Rideout.

My Father desires I will inform you that he will send you ye bond as soon as Mr. Hoper returns."

The letter is sealed with the crest. A fortnight later is a letter from Mrs. Rideout to her sister, with further details of their reception.

“ Westmeston, Nov. 14, 1784.

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

We are extremely obliged for your kind Congratulations & good wishes, and hope Mr. Humphry will accept our best Thanks for the same. I should have written before but was in hopes of hearing *the good News* & having an opportunity of *wishing you much joy*. What dreadful weather we have had. Anne is perfectly well, & on Wensday we make our *splendid entry* at Lewes, where I believe we shall stay some little time. The Assembly is Thursday Sennight when *I flatter myself we shall make an elegant appearance*. Mr. & Mrs. R. point much on our visit, & all the *Gentry* mean to pay us the compliment of a *second formal visit*. I understand we are to have *ringing* &c. We have had a number of morning acquaintance. I heard from Mountfield this week. I cannot fancy myself far from thence. I know Mr. R. is a favorite, therefore I must tell you that he had provided every thing with such exactness & nicety, that we seem as much settled as old Housekeepers. I wish you could give us a peep. Mr. Rideout desires his best respects to Mr. Humphry & will be rejoiced to see him here.

Tuesday Morn :—

This letter was to have been sent on Sunday but had no opportunity. We go to Lewes to-morrow. Mr. Hoper spent this morn'g with us ; he is a most agreeable young man. We are conveniently situated for the Church, hardly a step to it. Ld. Pelham & the Major made us a visit last week, & we had an *affectionate* letter that her Ladyship means me that honor, but has not left her room for some time. Mr. Kemp (the Member) is a great favorite of Anne's ; he breakfasted with us last week.

Mr. Rideout is gone to dine at Stanmer [Lord Pelham's house]. My pink Tabby is trimmed with crape & white sattin ribbon, & is a perfect beauty. Mr. & Mrs. Medcalfe were to have spent part of this week with us, but the weather was too bad. Mr. Constable comes to us when we return from Lewes. I do assure you we have a very comfortable House & very well contrived ; hope you will not forget yr promise some little time hence. We hope you will not scruple to give us a *Godson* this Christening or at any time, as we shall be happy to *answer for any body* belonging to you. Mr. Rideout has bought me a beautiful young Horse, just a proper size, & it is now properly in Training for my exhibiting. We have not heard from Vauxhall for some posts. We are impatient to hear of a new relation. I am join'd by our *Friend Anne* in Love & *Duty* to Mr. H., yourself & our dear Kinsfolk (I wish they were both with us) Ever yrs most Faithfully

F. Rideout.”

The next letter, addressed to Mrs. Humphry, was written during a visit to Mountfield the following August :—

“ My dear Friend,

Upon the word of an honest Gentlewoman, & the *Oath* if *required* of an *unexceptionable Priest*, I had written to you the Day the *Assizes* were *holden* at Lewes ; & as Mr. R. was to dine with Mr. Kemp, he was to have directed *it* ; but he not going, *it* has not seen Day light since, as I was confident *it* would not pay Postage. I should have wrote last week but my Cousin—— assured me we should have the pleasure of seeing Mr. Humphry this week & we were very sorry to find him *somewhat a lying Prophet*. We found our Friends here purely, Anne I do assure you much better than I expected to see her. She certainly mends daily & rides constantly ; & now she has got a *pretty man* to *escort her*, I think it must be of great benefit. I hear great accounts of your three lovely babes & quite long to see dear little George. We spent a fortnight at Framfield & were not disengaged one Day ; dined with our Cousin Woodward with a party of eighteen on a Haunch of Venison, met Mr. & Mrs. H. Courthorpe & Mr. & Mrs. G. Woodward, who enquired particularly

after Mr. Humphrey & yourself. We leave Mountfield the last Day of this Month, & Mr. Rideout shoots the remainder of the week at Framfield. We dine at Lewes the 3rd of Sept. & get home in the Eveng after having been absent *five weeks*, which I think you will say is rather *Dissipated*. Anne desires her best Thanks for your kind letter. *She* & her Companion are just returned from Darvel (see p. 61 *note*) laden with the finest Pike I ever saw. Mrs. Hardy & five Children are at Court Lodge, Mr. H. in Town for advice. I can't think how she can be tolerably easy, as an Amputation is the only thing that will ever effect the cure of his leg. We dined at Mr. Bishop's with a very large party on Thursday. I want vastly to see Mr. Mapletoft but shall not have that satisfaction this time. Brother Henry has promised to be here this week ; am very sorry Mrs. Woodgate is so poorly. Indeed, my Dear Friend, I wish much to behold you & depend on seeing you.....next spring. My *Friend Will* knows you. . . . they entertain me very much with his and Betsy I understand is as amiable as have been much entertained with some sky Mr R. let off to please Alicia on her An Birth Day. We were particularly happy (to see) Father so hearty, his hands are much a very fine thing that he had strength out. I am join'd by all in Love & every wish to Mr. H. yourself and little ones.

Ever yrs, my Dear Mrs. Humphry, most Sincerely,
F. Rideout.

We are all much disappointed at not seeing Mr. H. Particular Love to Riverhill & Brother Stephen.

Mountfield, August, 23rd.

Mr. Durrant says, Mr. Humphry is just the man he likes, the most agreeable Companion he ever *conversed with*."

The Durrants, Woodwards and Courthorpes were, of course, cousins of the Woodgates (see p. 29).

In November, Mrs. Rideout was back again at Westmeston, still inviting Mrs. Humphry and her family to pay her a visit.

"Sunday, Nov. 13, 1785:

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

Accept my best thanks for the favor of your last Letter. I hope this will find my little friends *quite well* ; was grieved to hear they had been so ill. I have the pleasure to tell you that we are *quite well*. Was very glad to hear from my Sister yesterday that our Dear Ann continued better. I quite long to see yourself, Mr. H. and all *my pretty* dears ; shall depend upon your making good your promise next year, or I shall really take it hard. I flatter myself it would give you great pleasure to see how comfortably we are settled and what a convenient Habitation we have. You know there will be a *little Inducement*, which may perhaps succeed better than all I can say. I have been very busy lately in making *preparations*, & altho' I have all Mrs. Rideout's child bed Linen, I find a pretty deal of *sewing*. *The Wardrobe* was completed this week by the arrival of a *Boat, coral*, & spoon from Mr. & Mrs. Rideout.

Mr. R. is the best gardiner you ever knew. I wish you could see our Green House Plants, & our winter Roots ; it is really delightful to see the Geraniums & Arinculas in full bloom. I wish *Willy* was with us. We expect Mr. & Mrs. Raynes (Mr. R's Tutor) to make us a visit this week. To-morrow Mr. Medcalfe and a party of gents dine with us ; I wish Mr. H. was of the Party, as I am sure he would like Mr. M. We expect Mr. H. Bishop in his way to Chichester. What a desperate Riot there was at Lewes on the fifth of November ; Mr. J. Rideout was with us, & we had some beautiful Fireworks let off from our Garden. *The Reverend Dean of Storrington*, who was our visitor, seem'd to enjoy them extremely. I am much obliged to the Hardinges for their kind enquiries. It would be a happy thing if Mrs. Hammond was to be *released* I think. Have you heard from Mr. Ozias ? I hope he will return

safe & sound. How does Betty Dann? I am very happy being my *country woman* & my *upper maid* in steady; she has seven hundred pounds, but agreeable *servitude* to living by herself comfort to have such a one, as I do upon her a common servant she came to me Medcalfe. Mrs. Hoper has got a I hope Brother H. received a Letter from me some little time ago. I beg you will give our best Love to Brother Stephen & him. Mrs. W. I understand is at Battle. William Ashm brought Mr. R. the sweetest Drawings you ever saw. I shall point upon shewing you *all my curiosities*, & if you do not come I shall take it very unkind, I really am serious, tis what you *ought to do* or I shall think you *unnatural*. My dear Friend (who by the by is so good to me that I never shall make him amends) joins in Love & the Heartiest good wishes to our good Brother, yourself & the *Dear Children*. I am, my dear Mrs. Humphry, yours most faithfully & affectionately, F. R—"

The next letter was written by Mr. Rideout about a fortnight before his wife's death; he urges Mr. Humphry to subscribe for a copy of the "History and Antiquities of the Church, Town & Neighbourhood of Southwell, Notts., illustrated with Capital engravings & dedicated (by permission) to the Arch Bishop of York, the whole comprised in one large quarto volume. Several Anecdotes of transactions during the Civil Wars in the last Century will be introduced in the course of the History, which will throw considerable Light on some of the leading Characters of that age, ut ait Auctor. The work is not published thro' any *mercenary view* as Mr. Rastale is a man of Family & Fortune, his Father Dr. Rastale high in the Church of Southwell Mr. Curteis is very well acquainted with Mr. Rastale, was at College at the same time." The author was a very particular friend of Mr. Rideout, and a man of marked abilities; Mr. Rideout is very urgent in his friend's behalf, and requests Mr. Humphry to push the work among *his* acquaintance. "Do smite Mr. Henry [Woodgate] & tell him I know he is fond of antiquities. Mrs. Rideout is very much obliged to Mr. & Mrs. H. W. for two kind letters."

He adds that Mrs. Rideout is in expectation of an increase to her family. The event was fatal to herself; but the circumstance is best described in the words of her brother William Woodgate of Summerhill, who broke the news to his father in a letter that survives.

"Summer Hill, Sunday, Jan. 8th, 1786.

Dear Sir,

It falls to my Lot once more to undertake the painful Task of communicating to you & my Dear Sisters the unwelcome news from Westmeston. Poor Mrs. Rideout is no more. My letter on Fryday Night I hope in some Measure prepar'd you to receive this sad Intelligence. I was so well assured myself of this Event, that I deem'd it best to speak out. I had a letter from Mr. Hodson by the Post this Morn dated the fifth instant to inform me that the fatal Hour was about two in the Morning of that Day. I am rather surpriz'd they did not send a special Messenger as my two last Letters were missent to Uxbridge. Bro: S: slept here last night & I have sent to Bro: H. by him to consult whether it wd not be proper for one of them to go down to comfort poor Mr. Rideout. For my own Part I must not stir from Home; my Uncle is much worse than when I wrote on Thursday—besides the Complaint in his Breath he has now a Fever & is very ill. I shall send my Son down with this Letter, who will inform you more particularly. I hope you will collect your usual Fortitude to stand against these repeated Shocks, and you will use your own discretion in communicating these sad Tidings to my Sisters & particularly to poor Anne, but I am afraid your own Heart will be too sensibly affected long to conceal the Contents of this Letter. I have liv'd in such a Situation for the last week that I hardly know what I write. Our united Love & Respects & believe me, Dr. Sr.,

Yr. most dutiful & aff. son,

Wm. Woodgate."

To one of Mr. Woodgate's advanced years, such a shock must have been severe. But four days before, he had lost his eldest daughter, Mrs. Acton (see p. 74). There was, according to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, a tablet erected to Mrs. Rideout's memory, on the north wall of the chancel at Westmeston.

Sacred
to the memory of
Frances,
Daughter of the Rev. Francis Woodgate
of Mountfield in this County,
and wife of the Rev. Richard Rideout,
Rector of this parish,
Who died the 5th of January 1786 in the
28th year of her age,
Lamented by a Father who had experienced
her Dutiful obedience,
Regretted by Friends who valued the
sincerity of her attachments,
Bewailed by the poor who were cherished
by her bounty
This marble is placed here
by an afflicted husband
to commemorate
Her virtues and his own misfortunes.

Mr. Rideout married a second time—on 22nd December, 1789, at Mountfield, by licence, one of the witnesses being Sarah Woodgate. The object of his choice was Sarah daughter of Francis Carter *Niccoll* (b), and widow of Samuel *Nicoll* of Court Lodge, accountant general of the East India Company and styled by tradition "the Nabob" (see p. 47). Samuel Nicoll died in 1787, leaving one child, Samuel John, who succeeded to Court Lodge. Mrs. Nicoll evidently had a life estate in Court Lodge, and there the Rideouts took up their abode. Mr. Rideout frequently took duty at Mountfield as appears from the registers. Framfield Park, the family seat, remained in his possession till he sold it in 1817 to Alexander Donovan.

There were two children, at least, of this second marriage, Anne b. 3rd June, 1792; Richard b. 8th November, 1793. It was to the first of these that Mrs. Humphry refers when she writes on 22nd June, 1792, "Mr. Humphry was very glad to meet Mr. Rideout. He was very much pleased with our new relation."

Mr. Rideout writes from Court Lodge in 1800, to Mrs. Humphry at Hastings:—"My dear Mrs. Humphry,

I understood by you that your wine had not arrived, and as I know it is of great consequence that what you drink should be genuine, I have taken the liberty of sending you half a dozen Pints of my old Port, which has been in my cellar eight years. I trust, shou'd you be again disappointed, you will be candid enough to inform me, that I may supply you till yours arrives. I charge you *on no account* drink that woeful mixture that is to be bought at the Swan. I shall endeavour to get it down to you by a returned fish cart; if I don't succeed I will send it by the coach to-morrow Evening. I was extremely happy to hear by Betsy this morning that the Bath agreed with you better than it did the day before. I shall hope to see you

(b) The other witness was P. C. Searancke. Mrs. Sarah Nicoll was the daughter of Francis Carter *Niccoll* and Ann Searancke his wife. Mr. Nicoll died in 1782, aged 58, his wife 1793, aged 67, and their daughter Elizabeth 1797; an inscription to their memory may be seen in St. Alban's Abbey. Their son adopted the name of Niccoll-Searancke, and his son Francis Joseph Searancke married a Miss Wood, whose niece married the Revd. Charles Nicoll of St. Leonards, now living. Mr. Nicoll possesses a full sized portrait of Sarah Nicoll, the second Mrs. Rideout.

again this week, & that I shall find you much better. Accept, my dear Madam, my most affectionate regards & believe me to be, yours most truly,
Court Lodge, June 17th, 1800. R. Rideout.

P.S. I have had the wine racked off so that the carriage will not affect it."

In February, 1803, Sarah Woodgate of Tunbridge writes:—"We met the Rideouts several times during their stay at Summer Hill; they enquired much after you. . . . They are going to spend a month at Ld. Chichester's. Lord Pelham has got Mr. Rideout appointed a Prebend of Chichester, which tho' only a *Feather* at present, from what he intimated I shou'd imagine will lead to better preferment."

In 1806 Rose Woodgate writes:—

"Mrs. Rideout has been at Summer Hill some time; it has happened so that we have seen but little of her. She seems in very indifferent Health & Spirits. Ann [Rideout] is left at Home with her Governess; I think it must be very dull for her. We are to dine with them at Summer Hill on Friday next. Mr. Rideout returns on Wednesday."

She writes about a year later:—

"I suppose you may have heard from Mrs. Nouaille that the Rideouts are going to leave Court Lodge and mean to reside at Lewes. A son of Sir Francis Baring is in treaty for it. They wish it to remain a secret till the widow's joyniture is settled. I find it is to accomodate Sam [Nicoll], & to the satisfaction of all parties. I have not room for particulars."

But three months later, Sarah Woodgate writes:—

"Mrs. Rideout returned to Court Lodge on Monday. She contrived to get robbed at the Election in Hertfordshire of about five pds. After all I believe they will not quit Court Lodge, at least for the present."

Mrs. Rideout died at Court Lodge on 24th March, 1809, aged 50, and lies buried in St. Alban's Abbey with several of her family. Miss Rideout often stayed with the Nouailles at Greatness. She was very delicate, and terminated an unhappy life in 1816. Mary Anne Humphry writes:—

"I had written thus far when Mr. Nouaille arrived and communicated a piece of intelligence which has shocked and grieved me beyond measure. Before this, you will probably have heard that poor Miss Rideout is no more. She died of a decline the twenty first of last January, but Mrs. Nouaille will tell you every particular. Her loss must deeply affect all her friends."

Miss Humphry writes of her death:—

"The intelligence of poor Miss Rideout's death shocked us very much; we hear Mr. & Mrs. Garrow paid her every attention, & trust the change she has experienced, for herself, is a happy one, as she had certainly a large share of trouble & sorrow in this life. Mrs. Nouaille tells us she made a will before she left England, & she believes left all her property to her Father for his life & after his decease to be divided between her brothers. My Mother has put on Mourning, but as we did not wear it for Mrs. Rideout, we do not intend to use it on this melancholy occasion."

What became of the family after this is not known, but we believe that some of the descendants settled at Bath, and are now living.

Just before the issue of this work, we were informed of the existence of *The Collier Letters*, edited by Mr. Charles Lane Sayer, whose ancestor Mr. John Collier of Hastings was the principal correspondent. We are indebted for this information to Mrs. Harkness of Ore, Hastings, who kindly lent us her copy for perusal. This book explains much that is obscure, and would have been invaluable had we but known of it before. The letters, extending from 1716-1780, relate to most of the families of the Hastings neighbourhood, and especially to the Colliers, the Murrays of Beauport, the Cranstons, the Milwards, the Worges of Battle, the Greens, the Pelhams, the Ashburnhams, &c.

Mr. Collier was Town Clerk of Hastings, and for many years agent of the Duke of Newcastle and others of the Pelham family. His influence at Hastings was paramount, and he was succeeded as "uncrowned King" by his son-in-law Mr. Edward Milward who died in 1811. From these letters it would appear that, as years advanced, Mr. Collier resigned many of his appointments, to which Mr. Rideout succeeded. In 1757, for instance, Mr. Rideout took over the Stewardship of the Duke of Newcastle's Manor of Ore. Mrs. Green, mentioned on page 292, must have been Mr. Collier's third daughter, Jane, who eloped with Mr. Green about 1761, which would account for her "want of forecast." She is described as "a lively pleasant woman like Miss Milward, fond of Society." She died in 1802 leaving, among other property, *Bohemia* at Hastings to her husband for life, and after his death to be divided between the children of her two sisters Mrs. Sayer and Mrs. Milward. They must have conveyed it to the Briscoes, to whose descendant (Mrs. Arbuthnot) we believe it now belongs.

CHAPTER X.

ROSE, SARAH, AND ANNE WOODGATE OF
TONBRIDGE (1790-1827).

When the Rev. Francis Woodgate died, the house-keeping at Mountfield was given up, and those of the family who lived there removed to the house at Tonbridge, formerly in the occupation of Miss Jordan. The family consisted of the three unmarried daughters, Rose, Sarah, and Anne; and the grand-daughter Alicia Ashburnham, whose mother did not survive her daughter's birth. The Rev. Francis Woodgate left to his three daughters all his household goods, linen, plate, &c., at Mountfield, his four-wheeled carriage and pair of grey horses, and the house at Tonbridge, in addition to £1,000 each, and lands in Cowden and Hartfield, and £800 to Alicia Ashburnham. The household at Tonbridge was therefore, in every sense, the direct successor of the Mountfield establishment and to Tonbridge the *Penates* were accordingly removed.

Until 1800 we hear practically nothing of them, and none of their letters of that period were preserved. A little memorandum book contains an entry with some curious items in what appears to be the hand of Rose Woodgate.

"A deep snow ye 5th of May, old style; snow ye 15th of April 1787; Hard Winter 1789, snowed all March.

Balm of Gilead left in the borders in the year 1790 all lived, *no frost*; decbr 23rd, 1790 a most violent storm of hail Thunder & Lightning.

91. a remarkably mild winter, but snow hail & Frost ye 12th of June, being Whitsunday.

1795. Hard Winter; lost all our Green House plants."

The first of the letters is from Sarah Woodgate, addressed to her sister:—

"Tunbridge, May 2nd, 1801.

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

As I have so good an opportunity, couldn't omit giving you a line. It is quite an age since we have heard from you & if I was not to set a good example our Correspondence *would drop*. Seriously tho, we wish to know how you all do. Mrs. W. Woodgate [at the Castle] goes on vastly well with her Nursery. The Duchess of Dorset's Marriage [to Lord Whitworth] surprized us very much as we never heard it hinted 'till we saw it in the papers; I imagine you will be very gay when they return to Knowle. Ld. Whitworth you know is an old Partner of Ann's; Jack Everest was a great Friend of his, he used to visit him at *Plaistow*. 'Tis reported that Mr. J. G. Children is soon to be married to a Daughter of Mr. Hamet the Banker, and niece to Sr Benjamin; he was introduced to the family at Lisbon by Mr. Murray. It appears a very early attachment so soon after his late loss. Dr. Ferns is thought in a very dangerous state. Suppose you have heard of Mr. Jordan's (*a*) preferment (without Solicitation) to a Living of near two Hundred a year near Chichester? Mr. Carter her Father Died some time ago and Mrs. C. is to live with them till . . . in Bromley College. How did Fanny like the Tunbridge Ball? We were happy to

(a) The Rev. Richard Jordan, M.A., succeeded the Rev. Francis Woodgate at Mountfield, which he held till 1836. He was also Vicar of Hoo. He was the second son of the Rev. Thomas Marshall Jordan & Susanna daughter of Daniel Woodgate of Stonepit, Seal (see chap. XIX.) He married Miss Carter of Rochester, and his daughter Margaret married Dr. Carter of Mountfield.

see her look so well. The Famous Charlotte Smith I'm told has taken a House at Frant ; her next Publication I think must now be on the Beauties of Kent. Dr. Watson whom you saw here is now settled at Tunbridge. The Visitation at the School I believe is fixed for the 19th of this Month, when if 'tis convenient to you to make a visit we shall be most happy to see you, as we think it will be an amusement for some of our young Friends. Mrs. John Allnutt has been so ill that she was obliged to go into the Country for Change of air. Mrs. W. Woodgate had a Legacy of two Thousand pds from her Grand Father [Mr. John Pott of Eltham] & the executors made her a present of a Hundred for Mourning. My Brother call'd on us yesterday for the first time since his confinement ; he has had a very severe fit of the gout and is much reduced by it. (If convenient) we should be glad of a line by the return of the Servant. Our united kindest Love to all our Friends at Seal (I didn't forget to drink my little John's Health on Thursday). Believe me, most Truly & affectionately yrs,

S. Woodgate."

Jack Everest was probably Sarah Woodgate's first cousin. This letter, like most of the others, is sealed with the Woodgate arms. The next is from Rose Woodgate:—

" My dear Mrs. Humphry,

Ann continues much the same as when you left us ; she has taken a drive to Summerhill, been to Church &c, & I hope during the next moon we shall contrive to spend a day with you. We have just heard from Alicia ; she accompanied her Brother to Broomham on Saturday last. Denny, Mrs. A. and the little Girl are of their party. Mrs. Ashm. was so fatigued with the Heat she was obliged to *halt* a day at Tunbridge. Ann is a very good little Girl & much improved ; they have had all their Neighbours to call on them, the Murry's, Milward's &c. Mrs. Nicoll is in Lodgings at Hastings.

Miss Tilden called on us on Thursday ; she told us what a pleasant day she spent with you, seem'd delighted with seeing all her old Friends. Mr. & Mrs. Whitehead and their five Children are now at Mr. Children's. He has had very satisfactory letters from his son ; he is delighted with America, is now in the Neighbourhood of Philadelphia, & admires ye beautiful plantations &c. We are soon to lose our worthy Vicar. I believe he is in Hamshire. A son of Coll. Heartrup at present supplies for him.

Ellen & Elizabeth [from Riverhill] are to make us a visit next week. We have had several invitations from Fanny Ashburnham but we have declined accepting them till Alicia returns. The Arch Bishop I hear is to give a Sermon to-morrow. We have not seen our new Relation yet, but imagine we shall before he quits Summerhill. Sally has imployed Mrs. Ditcher to make her cap in the same style as Mrs. Woodgate's with white ribbon ; I assure you it is quite superb. Mrs. Hooker has made us several visits. Pray have you read Mrs. West's letters to her son on Education ? I hear they are very well wrote.

Pray don't follow my example but write to us soon ; I assure you this is the first letter I have attempted to write since Octr. Mrs. Nouaille has just been here ; we are very glad to see her look so well but extremely sorry to hear that poor George has been so ill. Dr. Watson does not quit Tunbridge at present ; he has taken a temporary House till he can get a better. Mr. Curtail the Archdeacon called on them this week in his way from London ; he is now Ninety-two. Tunbridge, August 28th, 1802."

Sarah Woodgate takes up the correspondence three weeks later. George Humphry was on his way to Hastings, the other George was his cousin G. Ashburnham.

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

" Tunbridge, Sept. 17th, 1802.

Our Friend George arrived here safe on Wednesday ; he seemed in good spirits, but certainly looks very thin. I think you do perfectly right to do every

thing to contribute to his Health. We had prepared Sandwich's &c. for him on Monday, & a parcel for Alicia (which we were obliged to forward on that Day). I walked with him to the Angel & saw them drive off; some of his companions seem'd very respectable people. Mrs. *Summer-Hill* Woodgate has been confined to her Bed for some Days with a Bowel complaint attend'd with a good deal of Fever. Dr. Smith has seen her, & she is rather better to Day. I believe my Brother & Maria will go to the Christening at Greatness, but it is very unfortunate for all parties her Illness just at this time. We have heard from Alicia several times lately. . . . I wish poor George cou'd be admitted of their partys; he is still at Hastings. I think the two Georges will be nice companions for each other. John Scoones is likewise there who will be glad to join them.

Mr. Streatfeild's wedding has been the subject of conversation for some time. It will be *more* than a nine Days wonder. I am entirely of your opinion respecting his conduct, but cannot blame her if she likes him well enough to marry; he will add another *Child* to his numerous family. I never understood that Mrs. Bracebridge interfered about it, imagine it will take place very soon, I'm told in the course of a fortnight. Our *Friend* Mrs. Ditcher has been fully engaged lately preparing smart things for the future Bride. 'Tis reported Lady Catherine Bligh is engaged to Coll. Stewart, a Brother of Lord Castlereagh's. Our River Hill Friends [Ellen and Elizabeth Woodgate] left on Monday; they were at a play at the Wells with the Castle Family, which they were highly delighted with, being the first they had ever seen. I am happy to hear so good an account of Mr. Ozias, & should have been very glad to have seen him at Tonbridge; poor William I think never makes us a visit. Mr. & Mrs. Barret of Stockwell have called on us several times lately with their two sons, very fine young men; the Daughter is married. They have taken a pleasant House just by Prospect place; she invited us very much to come & stay with her. He is very much alter'd, has lately had a Parylitick stroke; Dr. Turton has attended him for some time. My sisters join in kindest & affectionate remembrances to all your circle. Believe me, my Dr Mrs. Humphry, yours most truly

S. Woodgate.

Mrs. Harrison had another son, about a fortnight ago. Mr. Hartrup the present curate is of Clare Hall; his Friends we are told are very Genteel people. 'Tis whispered his Father wishes to purchase this Living: I am afraid we shall not see much more of our old Friend Mr. Papillon."

Mr. Papillon was the Vicar of Tonbridge, and a near relation of the Hardinges. The Streatfeild alluded to was Mr. Henry Streatfeild of Chiddingstone, whose first wife (the daughter of the Rev. Newton Ogle, D.D., Dean of Winchester) had died in June, 1801, leaving a very numerous family of thirteen children, most of whom survived. His second wife was Charlotte daughter of William Scoones of Tunbridge, who was almost a "child." Mrs. Bracebridge was his sister, formerly Harriet Streatfeild.

The next letter, three months later, was from the pen of Rose Woodgate:—

[16th Dec., 1802].

"My dear Mrs. Humphry.

We heard from Alicia this morning & expect her here the end of next week, to spend her Christmas with us. Her Father & Brother leave her here in their way to Town. They seem to have very pleasant Neighbours at Winchelsea. She has been with a large Party to a Play at Rye. I am glad to hear that Fanny was at the Ball, & that it proved so good a one. What a serious misfortune is poor Mr. Nouaille's, & I hear the Malady rather increases. The Summerhill Family returned this Morning but we have not seen them since.

I know that you will be glad to hear that Mr. Children is thought rather better, tho' I fear not out of Danger. He is attended by Doctr Baillie; Mr. Luttrell went

up again on Monday. Mrs. Whitehead has been with him some time & the House-keeper ; he is at a Hotel in Town. Its very unfortunate just as John George returned. I hear he has brought several curious things with him from America, Plants, a Canoe, and amongst other things an Eagle, which Sally saw yesterday when she called on the Childrens. Brother Henry called on us this morning. He expected our Friend Mr. Acton in the Evening ; he will be a great stranger amongst us, we shall be most happy to see him. Mr. Papillon is in this Neighbourhood to receive his Tythes, I hope he will call on us. We have not yet heard for certain who is to have the Living.

Mr. Moneypenny is building a new House at Hadlow, the same sort of plan as Lord Boyne's, on a smaller scale ; it has been rumoured that he pays his devoirs to Miss Georgina Hamilton. I see Mrs. West has published a new Novel ; we have been reading her letters to her son—excellent instructions, but I am afraid few young Men will be benefited by it. Sophia Scoones is now with Mrs. Streatfeild ; I believe they are now in Town.

As you liked my Charade, if I can find room, I will send you an Enigma of Mr. Ashburnham's making, which we think a good one particularly the last verse.

Enigma.

As Celia each acquaintance *Cuts*

Whene'er they disagree ;

So I, when just occasion calls,

Can *cut* as well as she.

Yet deem me not, ye pond'rous Dames,

Wrapt up in selfish gloom ;

I'm always well content to be

The largest in the room.

Altho' my utmost stretch of power

No *flames* of *fire* can raise ;

When many of my species meet

We often make a blaze."

It would appear that Mr. Moneypenny formerly " paid his devoirs " to Anne Woodgate of Summerhill, till his hopes were shattered by her marriage with Mr. Nouaille. He was again eclipsed, as regards Miss Hamilton, by Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove ; we do not know who eventually consented to share his new house with him.

The next letter is from Sarah Woodgate :—

" Tonbridge, Feby 1st, 1803

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

I hope you have all continued free from Colds, which people in general have complained of. In short, a good *warm fire* during the frost & snow has been one of our principal comforts. Mrs. Wm. Woodgate & her little Girl are both remarkably well ; I think better than usual, & a finer Child never was seen. Imagine Mrs. Peter Nouaille has informed you of the History of our last Ball, which proved a very agreeable one, & how Gay we have been in this Neighbourhood with Private Dinners &c. Our Friend Mr. Acton has been present & seems to enjoy our Christmas Partys. We are happy to see him so well. He is now with Henry Woodgate and is to come to us for a few days next week. We met the Rideouts out several times during their stay at Summer Hill ; they enquired much after you, as did Mrs. Garthwaite who has been on a visit at the Castle, & I think I never saw her look so well. Mr. Pelham I'm informed died very suddenly at last ; we hear Mrs. P. has two Thousand a Year, with the House in Town & that at Crowhurst ; pray is it true ? Mr. Papillon call'd upon us the other Day. We are told that his Brother Philip is to have the Living of Tonbridge but will not reside here. Mrs. James Bishop sat an Hour with us lately. She was going to take her Eldest Daughter to Bromley

school; she mentioned that she should keep only Land enough for her own convenience, & Robert Sellers & his Bror Thomas are to take one of her Farms. I hope they will succeed. The Rideouts are going to spend a Month with Lord Chichester; Lord Pelham has got Mr. R. appointed to a Prebend of Chichester, which tho' only a Feather at present, from what he intimated, should imagine will lead to better preferment. Mr. Ashburnham left us on Saturday last; he spent a week with us, and is so very pleasant & agreeable that every person must enjoy his Company. I cannot find that anything is yet settled for poor George. Mr. A. has made a visit at Summerhill since Mrs. Ashburnham's confinement, who goes on well with her baby. I wish you lived wit[hin easier distance as we] cou'd have a little more of your Society, & I am certain you wd be delighted to hear some new Music & beautiful Songs that Alicia plays. We were sorry our Friend William had not time to make us a visit when he was last at Seal. Is George at College? I am happy to hear he has recovered in health. Miss Fanny Ashbm & Miss Georgina Hamilton made us a visit the other Morning; the former came to ask Alicia to the Wells. We have heard of our Friends at River Hill but have not seen them for some time."

Mr. Ashburnham must have been Denny. His sister resumes the correspondence the following month.

" Tunbridge, March 13th, 1803.

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

As my Aunt Sarah is at present an Invalid, she has deputed me her amanuensis to thank you for the favour of your kind Letter Imagine Mr. Acton has informed you of all the news in this Neighbourhood, including the Phantasmagoria that has been Exhibited here. I assure you we quite regret that he has left this part of the world. The Weather has been particularly unfavorable for my Aunt Anne who still continues extremely poorly; she has lately had a complaint in her foot, which has occasioned it to swell very much, and she is under the necessity of wearing a list shoe. Pray are not you shocked at the alarm of War? I think the Duchess of Dorset must be very impatient to return to this happy Island. I understand Mrs. P. Nouaille has been a great sufferer from the Influenza, but is now better, and Mrs. Allnutt, who is likewise in Town, is now Ill with the same disorder.

I had a letter the other day from Mrs. Ashburnham, who informs me she goes on remarkably well with her little Nursery; she gives me a most pressing invitation to come and see my Niece, which I purpose accepting very soon, as my Father who is now at Broomham intends taking me to Town in the course of a fortnight, when I am to go into Berkshire. Mr. Philip Papillon read himself in here lately & we hear means to be at Tunbridge part of the Summer. Mr. Hartrup still holds the curacy & purposes residing at the Vicarage. Was not you concerned to hear of the Death of your old friend Mr. Russel? Doctor Knox has made several purchases on Quarry Hill, & I hear is going to build a capital House; pray tell my friend Elizabeth this, as it will certainly be the *Heir apparent's future residence*."

That month Ann Woodgate died, aged fifty. She had always been delicate; and for some years, it would seem, had been almost a chronic invalid. Two days before the death, her sister Mrs. Humphry writes:—

" Our dear Anne continues much in the same state as when I first arrived, but gets rather weaker. I can't give a more true account of her health than what my sister express'd in her last letter; she is not able to get up to have her bed made—lays & dozes. I am thankful to say she does not seem to feel much pain. I found Sally very poorly indeed with such a very bad cold & shocking cough, I think she seems to be getting better to-day. She has hardly eat a small roll for these three weeks, but to day she eat a little Dinner. I don't fix any time for returning as it depends on circumstances, but you may possibly see us to morrow. I have expected some of our Riverhill friends to call; they may possibly to morrow or the day after; if so we shall return with them, otherwise I shall take an opportunity of returning

in the Coach. Poor Ann seem'd very glad to see me, but did not express any wish for my coming down. We called at Riverhill but my Brother was not at home. I heard of the death of Miss Austen this morning by Mrs. William Woodgate ; what a happy release ! ”

Anne Woodgate's epitaph was written by Sir William Ashburnham (her nephew), as follows :—

“ Sacred to the Memory
of Ann Woodgate,
Daughter of Francis and Mary Woodgate,
Who died the 23rd of March, 1803,
Aged 50.

Her mournful relatives this tablet rear
To one in life so loved, in death so dear !
To one who, doomed in sickness' paths to tread,
Resigned to Heaven, bowed her submissive head ;
The record of their loss this stone imparts,
Her virtues live engraven on their hearts.”

Writing of her to his sister Alicia, he says, with his accustomed felicity of expression :—

“ Broomham, March 27th, 1803.

My dear Sister,

I sincerely sympathize with you for the loss of our dear and much lamented Aunt Anne. To lose one so highly beloved, so deservedly esteemed, and to whose society you have so long been accustomed, must at the first shock overwhelm you with the deepest affliction ; but when we consider the hopeless state of suffering in which she has languished for so many years, it perhaps was hardly to be wished that she should linger longer. She is gone from a scene of trial & of pain to the regions of the blessed. Few persons have ever been in Life more affectionately beloved, or in Death more sincerely regretted. From my earliest Childhood she has always been to me an object of affection, and the more I contemplated her excellence the higher she rose in my esteem. The remembrance of her virtues will ever remain deeply imprinted on my heart. Her weeping friends have the greatest consolation which in their situation the human mind can possibly receive, that is, a well grounded and unpretentious confidence that her pure spirit rests in the bosom of her Saviour, and her God. My Father desires me to thank you for your Letter, and to offer his condolences on the present melancholy occasion. He likewise directs me to add that he intends going to Town on Friday next April 1st, you will either accompany us or not just as is most agreeable to yourself ; he leaves this entirely to you. I am perfectly assured that the Dear Relative, whose loss we now deplore, would not have wished that her death should preclude you a single day from the society of your Father and your Brothers. If however your departure from Tunbridge so immediately after the Funeral can possibly be considered the slightest disrespect to the memory of one so highly revered, I am sure I should be the last person to urge it. You will write to me by Tuesday's post to inform us of your determination. I go to London with my Father ; at all events therefore I shall see you on Friday. I am, your affectionate Brother,

William Ashburnham.”

Anne Woodgate by will, dated 16th November, 1800, gave everything to her two sisters Rose and Sarah equally, subject to a few small legacies of various amounts to her brothers William, Stephen and Henry, her sister Mrs. Humphry, the poor of Tunbridge, and her nephews William Ashburnham and John Acton, payable within six months ; and certain legacies payable after the deaths of Rose and Sarah, namely, to her niece Alicia Ashburnham, £1,400 ; to John Acton, £200 ; and Mrs. Humphry, £800 ; all in the Three per cents. The will was proved by Rose and Sarah, the executors, on 2nd August, 1803.

The next we learn of the Tonbridge family is from a letter of Alicia Ashburnham, dated 17th July of that year or a year later, to her brother William.

" My dear Brother,

I am sorry to inform you that we were obliged to postpone our Visit to Court Lodge, as my Aunt Sally was not well enough to undertake the journey ; she has been extremely poorly since you saw her, and the weather is so very hot and unfavourable for Invalids that we are afraid she will not get better till there is an alteration. We spent a very pleasant day at Mrs. Humphry's Christening, the Hardinges &c. &c. of the party. Mr. H. is much obliged for the perusal of your Poem. He desired I would inform you that it had afforded him the greatest pleasure, and thinks it one of the best productions he ever read ; if you do not wish to have it returned immediately, we intend driving to the Wells after a shower when we will bring it you. Mrs. Murray was Robbed at Spratts-Bottom of her watch and 12 Guineas, as she and her friends were returning from Town on Tuesday Evening, and she was so alarmed when she came to the Crown that she had an Hysteric fit. Last night we went a large party to see the Troop exercise, & Coll. Hollwell said they performed extremely well. I beg my Duty to my Papa and kind love to yourself and Brothers, from your sincere and affectionate

Alicia Ashburnham.

My Aunts desire their respects.

Tunbridge, 17th July."

The above was addressed to the Wells, where the Ashburnhams were staying. The Troop was the troop of Yeomanry, commanded by W. F. Woodgate (of Tonbridge Castle). Col. Holwell was father-in-law of J. G. Children, and son of Governor Holwell, who was one of the few that survived the dreadful scene in the Black Hole of Calcutta. It is to be feared that highway robbery, even at the beginning of last century, was only too frequent.

The next letter from the same pen contains the first allusion to the " noble captain," otherwise James Eldridge West :—

" Tonbridge, April 26th, 1804.

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

Mr. Hardinge called on us to-day & offered to take a letter to you (as he purposed going to Seal to-morrow) so I was resolved to avail myself of so good a Conveyance, tho' I have very little to communicate. I am very glad to find Miss Taylor is likely to be settled so much to the satisfaction of herself and friends ; you know she was always a particular favorite of mine. We understand the Wedding is to take place very soon, indeed I think it will be quite a tryal for poor Mrs. Taylor to part with such an agreeable Daughter. My Brother spent some days with us last week. I was sorry to hear that Mr. Henry Courthorpe was very dangerously Ill : I understand his Disorder is supposed to be a Dropsy.

The Visitation at Doctor Knox's is fixed for the 14th day of May, so pray tell Elizabeth if she feels inclined to see her *old flame*, she may be sure of meeting with a *heartly* welcome at *our Nursery*. I wish my friend Fanny cou'd see some *Roses* & *Mignonette* which I have got, a present of the *Noble Captain's*.

My Aunts received their Carriage about a Fortnight ago, & I must say it is extremely well painted. Mr. Hardinge seemed to speak with much pleasure of the late Gallant conduct of his Brother George. Indeed, he appears to have signalized himself so much that, shou'd he continue his Heroic Actions, he will no doubt soon be an Admiral.

Mr. & Mrs. P. Nouaille spent a long day at Summer Hill on Sunday. I hear Mr. Henry Hodges has given Nine Thousand pounds for the Living of Beckley, & means to reside there. Mr. Constable called on us the other day. He told us that he had lately got the Living of Hailsome ; you know these Livings were lately vacated by the Death of Mr. Harper. Suppose you have heard of the Dissolution of our old Friend Mrs. Bristow ? We hear that Mrs. Hare wishes to take a House in the

Neighbourhood of Seal ; two of her grandsons are lately come to School at Doctor Knox's.

My *Tall friend* begs to be particularly remembered to yr Circle."

James West was a man of immense height, and suitably proportioned ; he was, in addition, decidedly good looking, and Alicia soon succumbed to his charms. He was the only child of John Hartrup West of Postern Park, Tonbridge (who afterwards married Maria Woodgate of Summerhill, as his second wife).

Curiously enough, the next persons to be involved in robbery, though of a more peaceable character, were Rose and Sarah Woodgate. Writing on 30th April, 1805, from Postern Park, Alicia (then Mrs. James West) says :—

" I imagine you have heard that my Aunts have had a Drawer broken open where they Deposited their household money, & that the person who committed the Robbery proved to be their *faithful* John, in consequence of which he has been kept in Custody for the last week ; but Mr. Children, thinking was he to commit him there would hardly be sufficient evidence to Convict him, my Aunts yesterday allow'd him to depart in peace, to the very great joy (as you may suppose) of my Aunt Rose, for she said she was sure, had she been obliged to carry on the Prosecution, she should never have been able to have gone through with it. I have no doubt but they will discharge the Cook in consequence of this affair, for I assure you in my opinion appearances are exceedingly against her, as John and herself were the only Servants in the House (Baker being gone to Burwash on a visit to her Friends) when the Robbery was committed. It was very fortunate for my Aunts that we were with them at the time, for having a *Noble Captain* with them, it took off in a great measure from their alarm, tho' to confess the truth I have hardly conquer'd my fears yet."

In August Rose and Sarah Woodgate and Mr. and Mrs. James West passed a fortnight or three weeks at Brighton. The terror inspired in England by Napoleon was so great that every day, for many years, people expected to wake up and find a French army in possession. The existence of this feeling alone is sufficient to account for the ardent patriotism and strenuous exertions of every true man ; and it is small wonder that Troops of Yeomanry and Volunteer Companies sprang up like mushrooms throughout the country. Sarah Woodgate writes to Miss Humphry :—

" We should have written to your Mama to have informed her of our intended excursion, if Mrs. West had not ; we will certainly write to her from Brighton. I suppose you have heard of Miss Hamilton's intended Match. It seems a very extraordinary one tho' we have not heard the particulars respecting Fortune &c. I hope we shall have a pleasant [trip] and we sincerely join with Mrs. West (who I am happy to say is quite well) in wishing you every *happiness* at Sandgate. How very kind of Mrs. Pratt ! My sister is the only *croaker* amongst us. What do you think of the News of this Day ? Perhaps we shall be taken by the French, tho' I am told Brighton is a safe place, as it wd be found very difficult to Land. When we return we shall persuade yr Mama &c to come & hear Dr. Knox if he has not quitted the pulpit. Ever yrs affeclly

S. Woodgate.

We had not an Idea of going to Hastings ; how cd Bro: S. suppose so, as he pointed out the objects on the road to Brighton ? "

Mrs. Pratt was a sister of Lord Camden's, the term Mrs. being applied to unmarried ladies of age or dignity as a mark of respect ; Rose Woodgate was always termed Mrs. Rose. Mrs. Pratt had invited Mrs. Humphry and her daughters to accompany her on a visit to Sandgate.

The next letter from Rose is dated 9th December, 1806 :—

" My dear Mrs. Humphry,

Mr. Ashburnham has been with Mrs. West this last week ; we dined with them on Wednesday last, being their Wedding Day—Mr. Papillon, Stapleton &c of the

party. We met her and her party at Dinner at the Castle last week with the Spring Groves, & on Sunday they spent the Day with us. Mr. Russel is soon to be married to *Bell Ferris*, & Mrs. Bishop to a Clergyman in the Neighbourhood but I have forgot his Name. The Masons are returned from Sedlescomb, on the Death of his Uncle, and are gone to the Family House. Mrs. Rideout has been at Summer Hill some time. It has happened so that we have seen but little of her; she seems in very indifferent Health & spirits. Ann is left at Home with her Governess; I think it must be very dull for her. We are to dine with them at Summer Hill on Friday next.

We had a very pleasant Ball; a very genteel party of near twenty from the Wells; since which they have had a subscription Dance there & wished some of the Neighbourhood to join their party, but no moon & bad roads prevented most of ye party & I hear Lady Boyne was rather offended. Mr. Ashm. was much pleased with the improvements of his Nephew; he begins to call *Mama* and be very entertaining. I hope Mary Anne had a pleasant excursion & that her Beau proves *constant*. We never heard of Mr. Petley's Wedding, but fm his settling in Scotland imagine it is to a friend of Mrs. Maitland's. Capt'n. & Mrs. Thomas drank tea with us on Sunday, I think they will prove pleasant Neighbours. I have worn my Gown often & I assure you it has frequently been taken for a Sarsnet. Mr. Rideout returns to Summerhill on Wednesday."

" Tunbridge, Janry 18th, 1807.

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

I should imagine e'er this Mr. James West has communicated to our Friends at Seal the glad Tydings from the Postern. Mr. W. has just left us; in the course of a day or two we mean to be introduced to the little Stranger, who I hear is a very fine plump Child, and when Miss Ashburnham leaves her and she can sit up, we intend spending some days with her. Lady Amherst's was one of the most Elegant Balls I have heard of for some time. Pray tell Elizabeth that we did not forget to drink her Health to Day with the usual good wishes to *herself & all her Relatives*; I hope she has some *snap dragons*, or something very good to Day. As to myself I continue in statu quo: I have not been to one of the Balls tho' we have had several good ones. We have spent some very pleasant Evenings lately with our Neighbours, the Knox's, Castle, Thomas, &c; the latter we find a very accomodating agreeable Family, quite an Acquisition to the Place. Mr. T. Knox expressed himself much pleased with Mrs. Humphry & her Fair Daughters; poor Miss Knox seemed to have a particular desire to attend ye New Years Ball, she is since gone to Town. I told her I was certain you wd be happy to introduce her. Have you read the Dr's Sermon preached before the Philanthropic Society? He did us the favor to send us one as soon as it was printed, which we took great pleasure in reading, and is much at your service if you have not seen it. The players have not been permitted to act here yet; the Methodists have been endeavouring to prevent them, but the Gentlemen have taken such an active part that they are determined they shall. I hope some of our Nieces will contrive to make us a visit during their stay here, & see their old Friends again, as they seem'd to like their performances. I hear they have purchased a licence & Mr. Children has given them leave to stay. Pray have you ever read the Modern Griselda? There is only one volume, written by Miss Edgeworth, a good lesson for young Married people. Mrs. H. Woodgate has lately lost her youngest Brother; he died at Edinburgh. Pray remember us to Bror S. and inform him of the arrival of his little relative."

Mr. Children was the most active of the Tonbridge magistrates. Mrs. Henry Woodgate's brother was the Honble. Richard Somerville Hamilton, who died the 8th January. In the meantime John Humphry, the third son, was slowly sinking, and his life was despaired of at the date of the succeeding letter:—

" My dear Mrs. Humphry,

We were grieved to hear that poor John continues so ill. We wished much to hear from you, as we had several very indifferent accounts of Him. I wish

my dear Mrs. Humphry I could say anything to give you Consolation, but to you who have so much Religion & fortitude it may be needless. We have all our Clouds, Anxieties & Alarms, but it is to be hoped in due time they will be dispersed. We hope from the nature of his disorder that his sufferings are not very great; if there is so little prospect of his recovery, it is not to be wished for him to linger long. Mr. Humphry & yourself must find the greatest comfort in your dutiful & affectionate Daughters. I hope you will take care of your own Health, & that it will not suffer from so long an attendance on the poor Invalid. My dear Mrs. West's Baby at present is quite well, & James a fine little Fellow & improves daily; we purpose going to Mrs. West on Sunday to spend some days. Mrs. Henry Woodgate is likewise an Invalid. We hear the Death of her Brother affected her very much & she has been blooded several times.

Sarah Woodgate."

Febry 11-1808.

John Humphry died on 8th March, aged twelve. The next month Rose Woodgate writes again:—

"My dear Mrs. Humphry,

[15th April, 1807].

Little William [West] has lately had the Cow Pox, & since the Thrush, which obliged them to delay the Christening; Mrs. West now waits for her Brother's return from Town. When the weather gets a little more settled I hope we shall have the pleasure of seeing you, & as many of our young Friends as you can make it convenient. Little Henry at the Castle [afterwards Canon Woodgate of Belbroughton] has been confined to his Bed for some time with a Rhumatic Gout; poor little Fellow, he has suffer'd very much, but is now quite out of Danger & begins to have the use of his Hands. You probably have heard that Mr. James West has purchased Mr. Hankin's House at the Upper end of the Town. He could not meet with any thing more Eligible; it is near his Father & us which has induced him to buy it. Capt'n. Thomas is now in Town, his Brother the Colonel & his Lady are to return with him; we find them very pleasant Neighbours. Mr. T. Knox is much liked in the Church. Mrs. Knox enquires much after you. All our nieces at River-Hill are gone to Town, we have not heard from them for some time. So your Neighbour is come into power again: I hope your Family will find the good effects of it. Have you read "All the Talents and Elijah's Mantle"? I think we shall have an opportunity of seeing them in a few Days. The small Pox has been much in the Town which has occasioned many to be inoculated. I think this must have been a trying Spring for poor Mrs. Harding."

The Humphrys' neighbour was Lord Camden of the Wildernesse, Seal. On the dissolution of the Ministry of All the Talents, he entered the Cabinet as President of the Council.

Mrs. Hardinge, Lord Camden's sister, did not long survive, and her death is recorded the following month:—

"Tunbridge, May 20th, 1807.

My dear Mrs. Humphry,

I have just heard that Mrs. Nouaille visits Tunbridge to Day, & therefore am preparing a few lines to send by her, to thank you for the favor of your last kind letter. We are to meet her at the Thomas' this afternoon & shall hope to hear a good account of you all. We were extremely disappointed at not having the pleasure of meeting you the day we dined at River Hill; I wish yourself &c. would come down & stay some time with us. I am of opinion it would do you all good, as a little change of scene is sometimes of great service. Consider of it & let us know; the week after next will be perfectly convenient to us & we shall be most happy to receive you. We heard of the Death of poor Mrs. Hardinge on Monday, and tho' I consider it as a most happy release, yet still I am very sorry for her, as I had always a very high opinion of her. You will still I have no doubt have excellent Neighbours

in the Miss Hardinges, yet I think her a great loss ; poor Woman, I cannot help thinking how chearful she was when I played a Rubber with her last year. We had a very pleasant party at the Christening at the Postern, tho' the poor Children are both ill & still continue so with the Hooping Cough ; 'tis a very distressing, troublesome complaint at best. Jemmy at present suffers the most ; dear little fellow, he is more impatient than the baby. 'Tis a favorable time of year for them. Mrs. West has been an excellent nurse, but 'tis very fatigueing for her, particularly of Nights. Mrs. Rideout returned to Courtlodge on Monday ; she contrived to get robbed at the Election in Hertfordshire of about five pds. After all I believe they will not quit Court Lodge, at least for the present. We were in some hopes that we should have seen some of our young friends at the School Gala, which proved a very agreeable Meeting. The Knox's did all in their power to prevail with Mr. Peter Nouaille to bring some of them down, as there was a Dance in the Evening, but the letters that were written on the occasion I hear were missent. Mr. John Ashburnham is still at the Postern. The Mr. Ashms are returned into Sussex and Denny is in Town ; he entertained the party with singing at the Christening. When is Mrs. Hardinge's funeral to take place ? What a grievous loss was poor Mr. H. Bishop's ; you see what misfortunes we are all liable to. Our Garden is very pleasant, I wish you wd come & see it. I understand there is a poem lately published, written by a Mr. Graham, on the Sabaoth. Mr. Ashm spoke highly of it, & has sent for it ; he said it was something in the stile of Cowper. I shou'd like to read it. Pray give us a line in the course of a few days, I am certain my scheme will be beneficial to you. . . . S. Woodgate."

Mrs. Hardinge was the widow of Nicholas Hardinge, Clerk to the House of Commons, Secretary to the Treasury, and at one time Member for the Borough of Eye ; he was widely distinguished for his classical attainments, and died in 1788. As her grand-daughter married the Rev. Stephen Woodgate, and the families were otherwise connected, the following account may be of interest, taken from an old and faded manuscript in Mrs. Humphry's handwriting, and evidently copied from some such paper as the *Gentleman's Magazine*.

"Died on Sunday, at three o'clock in the morning, at the Grove near Seven Oaks, Kent, in her 89th year, Mrs. Hardinge, relict of the late Nicholas Hardinge Esqr. and Sister to the late Earl Camden. Her faculties were to the last unimpaired, sound and clear ; her capacity was not inferior to that of her Brother, and she resembled him in her eloquence. Her manners were as engaging as they were dignified, and her prudence in every circle of domestic life could only be surpassed by her goodness of heart. She was religious, moral and humane. If in her numerous virtues a ruling passion could be discovered, it was her zeal in executing the parental office, her vigilant attention to the interests of her children, and her solicitude for their love to one another. The loss which is theirs no words can tell, no time can alleviate. She died universally respected, admired and honoured by her numerous friends."

She left three sons and three daughters. Of the latter, Caroline and Julia, both unmarried, continued to live at the Grove until their death ; Jane, the other, married Henry Cresset Pelham.

The next letter is from Sarah Woodgate, three months later :—

"Tunbridge, July 30th, 1807.

My dear Mary Anne,

I have just recollected that I am a letter in your debt, & therefore as I had an opportunity of sending a line *gratis* thought it wou'd not be disagreeable. Pray inform your Mama and Sisters that we shall depend on the pleasure of seeing them either the latter end of next week or the beginning of the week following. We have a little domestick business going forward which prevents our receiving them before. Fanny seems much pleased with her excursion to Brighton ; Mrs. West and she

were both uncommonly partial to the place. The little Boys have been perfectly well since their return, but the meazels have been so much in the Town that we have not seen them but once since. Mrs. West & Fanny have been very sociable in walking over in an afternoon. The Thomas' we hear have taken very commodious Lodgings at Hastings, and are all improved in their health. The cause of poor Susan's weeping the Day you left us, she was taken rather by surprise to be confirmed, and she was afraid the Bishop wou'd ask her some questions. Have you read all the letters that have been publish'd on that affair since you left Tunbridge? It has been a general *Topic*; we hear the Dr. and his Family are much hurt on the occasion; Mrs. & Miss K. have called here several times lately, but not a word on that subject. We were quite grieved that you were caught in that tremendous Storm, but if you recollect we all thought there would be one; it was a pity Mr. Humphry did not take a Chaise all the way and then you wou'dn't have had such a hurrying Dinner. How fortunate that you did not take any cold! All our Gayities I think vanished when you quitted Tunbridge. How truly distressing the melancholy event at Coombank; how does Ld. Frederick bear his loss? Poor Mr. Austen was buried on Wednesday, I little thought his end was so near when we call'd and found him so ill with the Gout. I am afraid we shall soon lose Miss Austen for a neighbour which we are extremely sorry for. Mrs. West bought me a very pretty gown at Brighton; the border is very handsome, worked in satten stitch, and much at your service. Your sisters will take the pattern when we see them. We are all very sorry to hear Elizabeth has suffered so much with the pain in her face, a little change of air will be of service to her. Pray tell your Mama we hope she will make us a sociable visit. We have the promise of a fortnight, it will do them all good."

The next letter is undated, but the outside is marked December 11, and internal evidence points to the year 1809. William Woodgate had died in May, and it would seem that the improvements at Summerhill were alterations by the Major before he finally moved there from Tonbridge Castle.

"My Dear Mary Anne,

We hope Mrs. Humphry has not suffered any inconvenience from her Accident. We are quite concerned that she should trouble herself to write any of the Poem, as Doctr Knox lent it us & he says it is in his Extracts. Your Neighbours gave us a very good Account of our two Nephews. How very unfortunate for Mrs. Stephen [S. Woodgate of Pembury] his being so ill in Town; had we known of their calling we should certainly have sent you an *Epistle*. You have heard that we spent a Pleasant Day at the Castle, since which the Bride &c has made us a Morning Visit; we think it very Friendly of her calling on Mrs. West. We like her very much, think her a pleasant Agreeable Woman, & it seems to be the general Opinion of those that know her. We think they are both very fortunate, and that you will have Agreeable neighbours in them.

I was not at the last Ball but Sally thought it very pleasant, many strangers. Mrs. Cartwright was much admired, has been a great Beauty; this is his second Wife. We have read his two Volumes of Sonnets & letters. He has been Tutor in the Duke of Bedford's Family. We like his Writings very much, but we hear he has been a disappointed Man as he has expended large Sums in experiments which have not answered. Has Mr. Humphry read Mr. Benson's Sermon on the Jubilee? We think it a very good one. Mr. T. Knox is gone to Oxford to Vote for Ld. Grenville. We spent a pleasant evening there lately & likewise at our Neighbour's; Mr. Whitmarsh was there to take his little Girl home.

Poor Mr. Nouaille's must be a happy release. We are very glad to hear Mrs. N— continues to improve in Health. We hear Mr. Burton is Building a very good House for his son at Barden. *Thaddeus* is still here, visits at the Castle and Quarry Hill. The North York leave Tunbridge this week. Mr. J. G. Children is returned from his Western excursion, but no Bride, but it is expected. Your Friend Miss Manwarring is still here, as Gay as ever, and a Miss Jones from Eltham. We

partook of a fine Turkey at Dry-Hill with a small party their Wedding Day. We were grieved to hear of poor Mrs. Campion's Loss. What a truly Melancholy event. The Castle Ladies have been here this morn & we are going to play a rubber with them this *Even*; we wish one of you had Accompany'd the Mrs. Hardings the other day. We liked Thaddeus of Warsaw very much, likewise his Namesake, & think him a very Agreeable Man. Miss Burtons were yesterday in their dark Brown Peliss. . . . Sally took a drive with Mrs. West to Summer Hill the other day; she thinks it will be long before it is finished. Our little Friends at Dryhill are quite well & as full of play as Usual."

There is one other letter, undated :—

"My dear Mary Anne,

As Mrs. Thomas is going to Greatness to Day, she promised to convey a few lines to our Friends at Seal. We are very glad to hear Mrs. Nouaille is better. We had heard before of Mr. N's disagreeable loss: it was mentioned to us as £15,000. We have guess'd all your puzzles, & wish we had a few to return. I dined with Mrs. West yesterday (on the finest Turkey I ever saw, quite Norfolk) with a few Friends. Their little Folk are all in good looks at present, & very entertaining. Imagine you often see Fanny Woodgate. Mrs. W's dress for the Wedding was scarlet Cloth trimmed wth & sleeves of very fine Lace (too late in ye year & *Fashion* I think), white Hat & Feather. Miss Knox called on us since her return fm Town; she Dined with the Burtons in their New House. William's Match went off on account of Fortune on the Lady's side. When the Parchments were produced, she said she was not surprized, as *four* Gentlemen had declined for the same reason. Don't you think she was *too* explicit? R. Woodgate.

Tunbridge, Feby 26th."

Sarah Woodgate died on the 14th June, 1812, aged 64, and was buried at Tonbridge. She was exceedingly handsome, like her two sisters; and like them much given to works of charity. By her will dated 15th October, 1794 (proved at London, 30th September, 1812), she gave everything to her two sisters, subject to certain legacies, namely :—small legacies to her three brothers, Mrs. Humphry, her nephews William Ashburnham and John Acton, and the poor of Tonbridge; £100 to her niece Alicia Ashburnham at 21; and three legacies to be paid after her sisters' deaths, namely, £700 to Alicia Ashburnham, £200 to John Acton, and £900 to Mrs. Humphrey.

On her death a very curious point arose with regard to the Moat, Cowden. The three sisters had made their wills in favour of each other, and on Anne's death each sister took one half. When Sarah died, she had left half her original share to Rose, but the other half was left to Anne, who was dead, and the devise passed to Anne's heirs. Again, her will was made before Anne's death, so that she had made no disposition at all of the share which she received under Anne's will, and this passed to her own heirs—so that the heirs of Anne and Sarah were entitled altogether to one third of the Moat.

This case was submitted to counsel, Mr. John Leach, whose opinion was to the above effect. Moreover, as all the Kentish portion of the Moat was subject to the law of Gavelkind, by which all the sons (or brothers) take equally, the heirs were the four sons of William Woodgate of Summerhill (as representing their father) and Henry Woodgate of Riverhill, Stephen being already dead without issue; so that Henry took one half (one-sixth of the whole), and William's sons shared the other half between them. The Sussex portion was not subject to Gavelkind, and the whole of the one-third went to the Major, William's eldest son. In 1820 Rose Woodgate bought up the outstanding interests of her nephews. For their one twenty-fourth part of the Kentish property, with the share of some arrears of rent, each of them received £200, and some £50 extra for timber; the Major received an additional £250 for his one-third share in the Sussex property, which contained only a few

acres. By these transactions, the whole of the Moat became vested in Rose Woodgate and Henry Woodgate alone.

Besides this, the half of Sarah's personalty that she had left to Anne became payable to Anne's next of kin ; so that all her brothers and sisters received a very agreeable windfall.

After the death of her sisters, Rose generally had one of the Humphrys, her nieces, staying with her, and eventually left them the bulk of her property.

Her next letter is undated, but we assume it to have been written in 1816 ; here be it said that most of the subsequent letters are undated, and the dates given are therefore in some degree conjectural.

" My dear Mary Anne,

I am very glad to hear you had all such an agreeable excursion, indeed you were very fortunate in your Theatrical amusements. I write *this post* to say that some of my Neighbours are going to Greatness on Thursday & that it would be a nice Conveyance for you if it should suit your convenience. I fear the fruit has suffer'd very much if I may judge from my poor Garden, most of the trees that were so full of Bloom are almost all gone blited. I think Mrs. Hardinge will be quite an acquisition to the Neighbourhood ; I have had the pleasure of seeing his Uncle, as he came with him to Church on the Sunday. Suppose you have heard Mr. Robbert Pott is very soon to be married to his old *flame* ?

I hear Mrs. Knox [formerly Frances Woodgate of Summerhill and lately married to Dr. Thomas Knox] goes on extremely well, has had no Complaints but the Tooth Ach. Mrs. Woodgate is expected to make her a visit soon. Poor William walked from Hastings last week. Mrs. Sparks has made her sister a visit & brought a fine little Girl with her. Mr. Joseph Jefferson is going to France soon for six weeks, I believe to learn the French language. I hear Col. Merrison that married Miss Carnel is purchasing Mr. Mercer's(b); perhaps no truth in it. Miss Bayley is returned from London, smarter than ever, & her Friend Miss Hoskins with her ; she is grown a fine young Woman. I was invited to meet them & a large Party on Thursday next Door but was obliged to decline as usual. Miss B. enquired much after you all. I hear the Uncle has made his niece some very handsome presents, Grand Pianno &c &c, Mrs. J. Wests' information."

Mrs. Hardinge was a Miss Callender and married on 13th June Charles Hardinge, the Vicar of Tonbridge, who on the death of his uncle succeeded to the baronetcy. The next letter, dated 12th July, 1816, was written just before Mr. Humphry's death ; it appears that Mary Anne Humphry had been urgently sent for from Tonbridge.

" My dear Mary Ann,

I am extremely concerned to hear Mr. Humphry continues so ill, but hope to have a better account to Day from Mrs. Nouaille, & that when the Weather is a little more settled & it gets warmer he will find the benefit of it. I joyned the party at Dryhill on Wednesday. Your Absence was much regretted by all, & more the Cause of it. Mr. & Mrs. Knox called on me on Tuesday ; the Doctr was gone to Town. He said Mr. H. acquitted himself very well at the Visitation. He admired Mr. Hartrop ; I believe they have postponed their visit to Hastings & will go to Town. My Neighbours are packing up & the Col.'s Family leave Tunbridge Monday seven Night. Poor Tunbridge ! "

(b) Mr. Thomas Mercer of Green Trees, Hadlow, was ruined by the lamentable failure of the Tonbridge Bank. In May, 1816, he was to appear at the Guildhall with John Batlow, described as of Tonbridge, Bankers. E. G. Smith of Finsbury Square, Mr. Children's Solicitor, acted for them.

Green Trees was put up to auction at Christie's Rooms, Pall Mall ; the Solicitors were Scoones & Son of Tonbridge. It was a comfortable family residence with walled garden, orchards and 180 acres of land, lying two miles from Tonbridge on the road to Maidstone.

Mrs. Merrison, on her husband's decease, married the Earl of Carnwath, who died within three months of the wedding (see p. 147).

Her next letter was in October :—

“ My dear Julia,

I shall be very happy to see you whenever you can make it convenient to yourselves, but I cannot consent to your making so short a stay, as you promised me a visit in the Winter. I am sorry to hear your Friend Caroline has been so poorly, surely it must be very inconvenient for her Brother to move Furniture so far. *Major Bradford* is still at the Vickerage. Mrs. James West & I called on Mrs. Charles [Hardinge] last week ; she is certainly a most agreeable woman. I suppose you saw in the Papers the Wedding of our great Brewer ? I hear the Lady has ten Thousand pounds Fortune ; he is quite an old Man & has a large Family. Mr. Winch is going to Board & Lodge (& Mr. Harmer's eldest son, till his House is finished &c) with Mr. Keat.

Mrs. Knox called on me lately. She expected Mr. Vic [Vicesimus] & his Lady from Paris that Day, & the Doctr was to return with them to Town. He gave us an excellent Sermon on Sunday. Tunbridge Wells seems on the decline. Lady Theodosia Viner called the Play on Monday. Mr. Willm Scoones is removed to his Father's, & Henry & Edward are both at Home so they have a good *round* Family at present. I hear there is to be an Auction at the Crown to-morrow of a great quantity of the Major's wine (see p. 380). Mrs. Whitticar sat an Hour with me on Saturday in her return fm her Visit ; I am very glad to hear my little God Daughter is so well recovered from her late illness. I wish you were all so good Horse Women as the Miss Allnutts ; I hear they Rode to Hastings lately & only stayed one or two Nights, & returned on Horseback. I saw in the papers Mr. Kemp was fitting up a Chapple at Brighton, I suppose then it was his Sister. Mrs. Peters' Match seems very ridiculous ; how do her sons approve it ? I am glad to see an Account fm Dover to Day what an Immense Number of English are returned from France, & Family's of distinction. What a dismal Day we have had. You must be prepared to find Tunbridge very dull & stupid, not like River-Hill, no Carriage, no Musick, Hospitality or chearful Company, only *one* croaking old Woman ; we must make ye best of it, Adieu. . . . Tunbridge, Octr 18th, and my Birthday.”

From the conclusion it would seem that Rose had given up her carriage. She thinks Tonbridge very dull and stupid, and Tunbridge Wells on the decline ; probably the unfortunate business which involved the sale of Summerhill, in 1816, and of Ferox Hall, and plunged several families into difficulties, cast a gloom over the neighbourhood. Ferox Hall was purchased about the end of 1820 by Francis Woodgate, eldest son of Henry Woodgate of Riverhill ; and his family from that time proved the best of friends and the kindest of neighbours to Rose Woodgate, who in her advanced age was much dependent upon them for society and other benefits.

“ Tunbridge, Janry. 29th [1823 ?]

My dear Fanny,

As the frost is gone I once more take my Pen in hand. Mrs. Woodgate continues much the same, rather better since she went to Town. Mr. Ponton brought his two Nephews home on Saturday. James [Mrs. James West's eldest son] has had a very Gay Christmas, a number of Dances &c. & William amuses himself with drawing, as his Uncle has got an instructor fm Hastings. I hope it will not be long before I have the pleasure of seeing my dear Julia at Tunbridge ; the Weather was most trying for her in Town, but I hope with my Doctr Flannel & due care she has continued quite well. Miss Jele's House has been broke open, and Mr. Saint's. A Servt that lived with the former a short time is suspected. The Luckfords have not been out of their House for a long time ; all have been ill but are now better.”

James-John and William West at that time were staying at Broomham with their Uncle Ashburnham.

“ Tunbridge, Thursday, Sept. 18th [1823].

My dear Fanny,

The Weather has been delightful for the Sea. I was very sorry to hear of your disappointment by Mrs. Hardinge's illness, but I hear to Day she is better & I think will probably be at Hastings by the end of the week. I have frequently had the pleasure of seeing my nephew Sr. William as he calls on me often; to Day they all dine at the Postern, on Saturday with their Aunt at the Wells, & on Monday he goes to Town on Business, then visits Denny & Co., & returns home again soon. Change of scene seems to have been of service to him.

Mrs. West & Miss Gunning have just called on me; they tell me Mrs. Humphry is the *Bell of Hastings* & make a very favorable report of you all. I have seen the Woodgates twice lately. I suppose you heard of their grand Ball by Caroline? Mrs. James [West] has been a *kind* Neighbour to me. Mrs. Francis [Woodgate] is better than usual, was well enough to Dine at Dryhill this week. I believe you have heard that Mr. Yates had taken Mr. Luckford's House till March at 15 Guineas a Week; he is expected here this week. I hear he has two daughters who are both very unhealthy. I am glad to hear the Milwards are returned, as I think you will be entertained by their excursion. Mr. Addams gives Philosophical Lectures at the Town Hall to Day: he is much recommended by Mr. Benson. He & his Lady lodge with Miss Dudgen. He looks a *Gentleman*. Mr. Knox has had two Cricketings lately, Mr. Petley attended both. He brought my Nieces down, but I don't know whether the Ladies went. You know James West is commenced player, & is likewise become a Sportsman; I think it is *too* young, but they tell me many are Junr. to him. Mr. Lushinton Died at the Wells last Week. My Nephews went to the Chapple on Sunday which was excessively crowded; the place is fuller than ever. I recd a letter from Mr. Acton & his usual present of Grouse a few days after you left me. Mrs. W. Scoones & her Children are gone to Brighton & Mrs. T. Allnutt has been confined to her Bed at Mr. Scoones. Miss Harvey makes great enquiries after you & Miss de St. Croix desires her kind regards. I am sorry my good *Doctress* was not benefited by the sailing excursion. You will have the goodness to let me hear from you before your Mother returns that I may be prepared with a Family Dinner, Lunch or whatever is most agreeable or convenient to yr party.”

Rose Woodgate at this time was getting very old, and her writing bears evident marks of the feebleness of old age; her letters too are much shorter, and contain several mistakes.

“ Sunday, 27th, Novr. [1825].

I thank you, my dear Fanny, for your kind Letter. I ought to have answered it sooner, but really I am so *old* and *stupid*, that you will excuse it. Poor Mrs. Woodgate continues a great sufferer, almost always confined to her Bed, & obliged to take opium draughts; Mr. Francis and my dear Alicia are my best Neighbours. I suppose you know that Mrs. Allnutt & Maria are at Hastings; I hear they have taken lodgings for a month. I hope, my dear Fanny, you will not forget your promise of visiting Tunbridge. I am glad to hear you have got so agreeable a supply to succeed Mr. Hatch.”

Her next letter is to Lady Ashburnham, at Hastings.

“ I thank you, my Dear Julia, for your kind letter, and shall be most happy to see you at the time mentioned. Mrs. James West sat an hour with me yesterday; Alicia is very good, & an excellent Neighbour. I am quite grieved for the Melancholy Event in the Luxford Family, a most distressing event. Poor Mrs. Francis Woodgate continues a very great sufferer, quite confined to her bed, seldom well enough to see her Friends. You seem very gay at Hastings; Tunbridge affords no news. Poor Miss de St. Croix has been very ill, but now recovered & has got a New Lodger; I think his name is Henderson, he is Curate to Mr. Moneypenny & they give him an excellent Character. What a sad affair this of the *Banks*; I hear the Tunbridge

people have got a great many notes of the Maidstone Bank. Our friend James seems very happy at Cambridge, I suppose now he will soon be returning to Tunbridge. I hope, my Dear Julia, you will give me a line to know when I am to have the pleasure of seeing you. You will find me a poor old Cripple, as I spend most of my time on the sofa.

Thursday, Decr 15 [1825]."

Maidstone Bank followed the example of the Tonbridge Bank ; indeed, Banks failed all over the country, numbers were ruined, and the market glutted with fine estates for sale. Rose was evidently not concerned personally for she writes with a philosophical detachment which would otherwise be impossible, but many of her friends must have been affected. Her next letter was written in 1826.

" I am still, my dear Fanny, the same poor Creature you left me, very feeble & poorly, have only been able to get in the Garden but once since you left me. I am glad to hear so good an Account of Mrs. Humphry & her Family ; I sincerely hope Government will consider her Situation. I seldom see Mrs. James West as she has been quite an invalid, but the young people are very Neighbourly. Mrs. Streatfeild called on me last week. She gives a delightful Account of her little Ellen. You hear all the Tunbridge news from your Neighbours. I write this thinking that Ann Nouaille may convey it to you. How very kind of Mrs. Harding to remember her old Friends. Miss Morleys are now at ye Postern, so they have quite a party of young people.

Tunbridge, June 27th [1826]."

Mrs. Streatfeild was Rose Woodgate's niece, formerly Anne Woodgate of Riverhill, the wife of Capt. Richard Streatfeild of Hever. Her last letter is dated Tuesday, 25th July [1826] :—

" I thank you, my Dear Fanny, for your kind letter. You hinted taking another drive in yr Donkey Chaise ; the Dust is now finely laid. I have just received a note from Mr. Francis Woodgate mentioning the Death of Mr. John Ponton ; he died at Cheltenham, on Saturday Evening. They have had a letter fm Mrs. Ponton every day for some time, as he was not expected to Live. James is very well & quite Gay, was at a Ball at the Wells on Friday. Mrs. West has still a large party with her. Must your Donkey take you home again at Night ? Cannot you contrive better ?"

Rose Woodgate continued in a very infirm state until December, when the end began to draw near. Her niece Frances Humphry was in constant attendance, and her letters of this period have all been preserved. To transcribe each one would be a wearisome repetition of detail, but a few extracts will serve to throw light upon this last stage of her life.

On December 12th, Tuesday, she writes to her sister, Lady Ashburnham :—

" There is little variation in my dear Aunt since I wrote last, one day greatly exhausted, & the next a little revived ; Mr. Morris thinks she may remain in this state longer than he at first apprehended, with no prospect of *real amendment*. Her back pains her a good deal & every day becomes more tender. I greatly fear this will be an increasing evil ; she takes nearly the same quantity of Nourishment & 3 glasses of Sherry during the day & night, which I really believe has prolonged her life. Mr. Morris has found it necessary to increase the quantity of Opiate every two nights to produce sleep."

The next week, Tuesday, she writes again :—

" Knowing your anxiety to hear of our dear Patient, I should not have been so long silent, had you not received frequent Intelligence from our friends at Dry Hill. On my return to Tunbridge Friday last, I found my dr Aunt still more reduced & weakened, & suffering more from her back, the skin of which is broke, & I grieve to state occasions her much pain ; she is now so extremely tender, that the moving her from one bed to the other is a most distressing office."

The day before her death, on Sunday evening, she writes :—

“ With infinite concern I inform you my dearest Aunt has been considerably worse the last few days ; & every Symptom indicates that the period of her suffering is fast approaching. The patience & resignation with which she has supported a lingering illness, & the grateful affection evinced for the attentions of those around her, are quite angelic. God grant the scene may close without suffering.”

The next day Rose Woodgate died ; and her death was duly communicated to Lady Ashburnham :—

“ My dearest Julia,

It will afford you a mournful satisfaction to know that our dearest Aunt is released from her sufferings. She departed this life about three o'clock this Afternoon. I grieve to state that her previous sufferings were most distressing, & we cannot be too thankful they have terminated. We have lost a beloved and revered relative, & her many virtues will ever endear her memory. The reflection that she is entered on a state of durable happiness will afford us all the purest consolation. It has indeed given me the truest satisfaction that I have been enabled to administer some degree of comfort to her latter days. Mrs. James West was in the house, and altho' greatly affected, supported the first shock much better than might have been expected. I can only add my kindest remembrance to Sir William & yourself Ever, dearest Julia, yr truly affectionate Sister
Jany, 1st, 1827.

Frances Humphry.”

She writes again on the 3rd :—

“ I lose no time in informing you that Tuesday next at 12 o'clock is the time fixed for performing the last mournful duties to our dear departed Aunt ; & I am sure the attendance of Sir William will prove a gratifying tribute to us all. You can be accommodated with a bed *here without the least inconvenience*, & I need not add yr presence will afford much comfort to me. Mrs. James West was here yesterday ; her feelings at present are strongly excited ; I trust a little time & reflection will mitigate the violence of her grief. Our dearest Aunt has descended to the grave full of years & resignation, & that she has exchanged a state of suffering for that of permanent felicity must reconcile us all to the loss of so beloved a relative.

The Will was read yesterday morning by Mr. James West in the presence of Mr. F. Woodgate & myself. My Mother is appointed sole Executrix ; as I shall see you so soon I will only state that by a Codicil the share in the Moat Farm originally bequeathed to my Brother is given to us, charged with a Legacy of 750 pounds to be paid by us (within twelve months after the decease of my Mother) to Mr. Nouaille & Mr. F. Woodgate in Trust for the Children of my deceased Brother. I hope the distribution my Aunt has made of her property will give satisfaction to her friends, as I am sure it was her earnest wish to do what was kind by all. I am acting as the *Representative* of my dear Mother, & it shall be my utmost endeavour to fulfill every duty in conformity to the wishes of my dear departed Aunt.”

Mary Anne Humphry writes in similar terms.

The will, dated 4th June, 1816, as altered by a codicil made not long before her death, provided as follows :—

The Moat Farm, as to three-quarters, and the house at Tonbridge, to her sister Elizabeth Humphry for life and then to her three nieces, subject to a legacy of £750 to the children of her deceased nephew, William Ozias Humphry (namely William, Richard, Frederick, Ozias, and Juliana) ; the remaining quarter of the Moat to her brother Henry of Riverhill, charged with legacies of £700, namely £100 to each of his children, Francis, John, Ellen Petley, Elizabeth Broome, Anne Streatfeild and Sarah Lipscomb, and £50 each to Denny and George Ashburnham.

The following cash legacies :—£100 each to her nieces, Mrs. Allnutt, Mrs. Nouaille, Mrs. West, Lady Ashburnham, Frances and Mary Ann Humphry ; £200 to nephew

John Acton ; £100 each to her greatnephews and greatnieces, James John West, William Ashburnham West, Alicia Amy West, John Eldridge West, Frances Ashburnham West, Rosetta Maria West and Frederick George West ; £20 each to the five children of her deceased nephew William Humphry ; £50 each to her nephews Sir William Ashburnham, Rev. John Ashburnham, Rev. Stephen Woodgate ; £50 to her great niece Anne Woodgate (daughter of the Major) ; £1,500 in cash and £1,600 in Three per cents to her niece Alicia West ; £100 to her maid Susanna Smithers ; and £5 to the poor of Tunbridge. Everything else to Mrs. Humphry, the sole executrix.

The house, which was situated in the High Street, was sold to Mr. Scoones, and the furniture was to some extent disposed of among various friends ; the rest we imagine was either sold or taken to Seal. Further information respecting Rose Woodgate's affairs will be found in the account of the Humphrys (see p. 246).



WILLIAM WOODGATE, Esq. of Summerhill.

CHAPTER XI.

LATER SUMMERHILL PERIOD.

It has already been stated that Henry Woodgate was living at Summerhill in 1764, with his sisters Elizabeth and Ann. His eldest nephew William Woodgate (son of the Rev. Francis Woodgate of Mountfield) was also one of the household. William then became acquainted with his future brother-in-law, John Acton (married to Mary Woodgate in 1765), who leaves on record his impressions:—

“In my last excursion to Tunbridge, I was much pleased with Mr. William Woodgate, who I look upon to be a very sensible deserving young Gentleman, and who will in time be an Ornament to his family. I shall esteem myself happy in his acquaintance and good wishes.”

William was then only twenty years old; but events amply justified the opinion of the shrewd young lawyer, as will be seen. In 1766 Elizabeth Woodgate died. In March, 1769, William married, whereupon his uncle and aunt quitted Summerhill and took up their residence in a house at Tonbridge belonging to Henry.

Everything tends to show that Henry Woodgate had spent nothing on the house during his tenure, and that the whole place was utterly neglected. It was visited by Horace Walpole in 1752, who writes thus:—

“A mile from Tunbridge we climbed up a hill to see Summer-hill, the residence of Grammont’s Princess of Babylon. There is now scarce a road to it. The Paladins of those times were too valorous to fear breaking their necks, and I much apprehend that La Mousery and the fair Mademoiselle Hamilton must have mounted their palfreys and rode behind their Gentlemen-ushers to the Wells. The House is little better than a farm, but has been an excellent one, and is entire though out of repair. I have drawn the front of it to shew you, which you are to hand to me again to shew me. It stands high, commands a vast landscape, beautifully wooded, and has quantities of large old trees to shelter itself, some of which might well be spared to open out views.”

All this was soon changed. William had the whole place put into thorough order, in which it was thereafter maintained as long as it remained in the family. From time to time it was restored and improved. For some account of the place, the reader is referred to Hasted.

Readers of Thackeray will recollect Harry Warrington’s visit to Tunbridge Wells. Barbeau, the landlord of the White Horse, informed him “that there was a great entertainment at Summer Hill, which had taken away most of the company; indeed there were but four other gentlemen in the room.” This would be about 1756.

William Woodgate married Frances daughter of John Hooker (a) of Tonbridge

(a) We take this opportunity of making some mention of the old Huguenot family of *Markett*, otherwise *Marquette*, of French (or Belgian) descent.

John Markett of Meopham Court Lodge married Ann, sister of Frances Hooker, and had the following children:—

1. An infant, buried 7th January, 1754.
2. Ann Hooker, b. January, 1755, d. at Deptford.
3. John, b. 5th September, 1755, d. 5th September, 1789, at Meopham. He was a West Indian Merchant.
4. *Francis*, the heir.
5. Frederick, b. December, 1758. Entered first the profession of Law and then the Army.

Castle; the ceremony was at Tonbridge, on 30th March, 1769, and the register signed by Thomas Hooker and Stephen Woodgate. By the marriage articles, dated 29th March, 1769, and made between William of the first part, Frances Hooker his intended wife of the second part, and Thomas and John Hooker, Stephen Woodgate and William Scoones (the Trustees) of the third part, amongst other things William covenanted to leave by will to the Trustees £4,400 for his widow for her life by way of jointure and afterwards for the children.

The Hookers were descended from Sir William Hooker, Lord Mayor of London in 1675, who belonged to an old Hampshire family. His son John settled at Oldbury Hill in Ightham and afterwards at West Peckham, where he was High Sheriff of Kent in 1712. Of his two sons John, the younger, purchased Broad Oak in Brenchley and founded a family there; Thomas, the elder, purchased Tonbridge Castle.

Thomas Hooker, brother of Frances, sold Tonbridge Castle to William Woodgate. His ancestor "John Petley," he says, "was ruined in his services to Charles I, yet got up again sufficient to purchase considerable property in the parish of Tonbridge and built almshouses there for six poor housekeepers. . . ." A detailed account of the family is given in the footnote below. It only remains to add that their arms were "A cross, sable and argent, between four escallop shells all counter-changed," with which were quartered Bromfield, Wood, Petley, and Bouchier. (aa).

6. Elizabeth, m. 1790 the Rt. Hon. Sir John Bayley, Bart., Baron of the Exchequer: Her son Francis Bayley, who sat as Judge of the Westminster County Court until he was ninety years of age, was the father of Lady Cornwall*.

7. Augustus, Lieut. R.N., b. 16th January, 1761, married when stationed at Cork a young widow whose maiden name was O'Donovan. She died leaving three small children, one of whom subsequently married Mr. Rayden. Lieut. Markett married again and had two daughters, both of whom died single. Mr. Rayden had, among other children, a daughter Lucy (now Mrs. Grahame of St. Leonards), to whom we are indebted for much valuable information.

Mr. William Rayden of King's Bench Walk is a great-grandson of Augustus Markett.

8. George, of the Middle Temple, b. 16th January, 1762.

9. An infant, died January, 1763.

Mrs. Markett also died in January, 1763. John Markett's eldest (surviving) son, Francis, inherited the estate and died on 7th June, 1821. One of his children, Isabella Frances, married in September, 1815, at St. George's, Bloomsbury, the Rev. William Mansfield. We believe that the name of Markett is borne by one only of the numerous family of John and Ann Markett, namely a Miss Sophia Markett.

(aa) Sir William Hooker, Knt., Sheriff of London, 1665, Lord Mayor 1674, d. 1697, aged 84, leaving by Laetitia his wife, dau. of Francis Coppin of Middlesex,

1. *John*, of whom presently.

2 and 3. Other sons.

4. Anne, m. Sir John Lethuiller, Knt., of Sutton-at-Hone Place.

5. Laetitia, m. Edward Vaughan of Haverford, and had issue

Sir William m. 2nd. Susanna, dau. of Sir Thomas Bendish, Bart., of Stanstead, Surrey.

John Hooker of West Peckham, High Sheriff of Kent in 1712, m. Elizabeth Green and left issue

1. *Thomas*, of whom presently.

2. *John* of Broad Oak, Brenchley, ancestor of Hookers of that ilk.

Thomas of Tonbridge m. Anne Bromfield, dau. and heiress of Bromfield and Mary Winter his wife, and grand-daughter of Sir ... Bromfield, Knt., of Herts., Lord Mayor of London. He left issue

John Hooker of Tonbridge Castle m. Elizabeth, dau. and heiress of John Wood of Tonbridge (whose father Gilbert m. Elizabeth dau. and heiress of John Petley of Downe and Oldberry Hill, Ightham) and left issue

1. *Thomas*, of whom presently.

2. Elizabeth, m. 1st Richard Children, brother of John Children of Ferox Hall, Tonbridge. 2nd Joseph S. later of London.

3. Anne, d. 1763, m. John Market of Meopham Court Lodge.

4. Mary, m. Rev. Henry Austen, M.A., Rector of West Wickham, Kent. He died 22nd July 1807, aged 81, leaving issue

a Henry, d. 7th June, 1772, aged 7.

b Edgar Francis, d. 1st March, 1804, aged 29.

c Elizabeth Matilda, m. John Butler Harrison of Southampton.

d Harriet Lennard.

* See Reference Sheet.

We have a glimpse of the process by which Summerhill was furnished. William went up to town to make his purchases, and there met his brother Henry, who describes the event :—

(Saturday, 10 Feb., 1776).

"My brother William left town this morning; he came on Thursday to buy Furniture &c. and *in the old character* (which I'll give him credit for supporting admirably well). He has got *discount allowed him, and a great many good bargains*. He desired me to tell you that he has bought you some chairs, but that you won't receive them till Friday Se'nnight."

His earlier letters, addressed to his Father at Mountfield, relate chiefly to matters of business; William managed the family estates in Chidingstone and Penshurst, belonging to his father. The first of the letters refers to James Kiddar, tenant of the Moat Farm.

"Saturday night, dark, 12th June, 1773.

Dear Sir,

I have a few minutes to inform you that James Kiddar came over yesterday Morn: requesting a small Tree for some Laths, but I soon found out that his Business was, if he could, to bargain for another Lease. I hung off very much at first because I saw him earnest. He thought I had not seen you since he had, but told me very candidly the same story with yourself, namely that you ask'd 100 p. annum, & he to keep Repairs; that he had offer'd to take it & repair at the same Rent, but that you at last talked of allowing something towards them. He hum'd & haw'd a great while, the Repairs he was sure as he had taken time to consider of it would cost 300*l*. At last I told him in few words that if I did the Business with him, it must be on those Terms; that he should give 100*l* p. annum, keep all Repairs for 21 years, leave it in good Repair, carry off nothing the last year, all to be left on the Premises; he was to find his own bricks, & every Thing except rough Timber, and upon these terms you would assist him with 50*l*, and that if he did not like it I could let it for more money & upon as good Terms. He fretted much, dwelt long upon the Advantage he has over you by this Lease &c. To this I answered it wd be no Loss to the Landlord as I cd find a Man who would gladly take it all off his Hands, and seeing me determin'd offer'd to accept of my Conditions upon advancing 100*l* towards Repairs. I absolutely refus'd another Shilling & he went away desiring a little Time to consider of it. Now, Sr, I apprehend before you receive this Letter he will be with you. If so, and you have not agreed, let me persuade you to stand out. I am sure he will not leave it: make no other Conditions. I remember when last at Mountfield you said you wd allow 100*l* towards Repairs, but I am mistaken if you cannot save 50*l*. I told him that when last he & I had some Con. Fab. he positively refused to be rais'd, & that I had thought nothing more of this Continuance after his Term. This frighten'd him much. Upon the whole he is a good substantial Tenant, who will make the best Bargain he can, but will punctually stand by it. I am well persuaded he will use the Land well, & pay his Rent in due time, very necessary Qualifications for a desirable Tenant.

I am happy to inform you that Bro: S: [Stephen] is much better, tho' I dare say you have heard from him since I left him on Sunday Even: since which I have not heard from him. I mistake Mr. Thompson was at Ton: on Monday at our

5. Sarah, m. Austin Greenland of Newman Street.

6. John of Cheapside, d. unm.

7. George, d. young.

8. Frances, m. WILLIAM WOODGATE OF SUMMERHILL.

Thomas Hooker of Tonbridge Castle, eldest son, m. 1st Ann, dau. and heiress of ... Redman of Windsor. 2nd Sarah, coheiress of Otley of Testwood, Hants.; she d. at Testwood 14th December, 1812. He died at Testwood, December, 1803, leaving by his first wife a son,

Thomas Redman Hooker, D.D., Vicar of Rottingdean, whose son, Thomas Redman Hooker, of Eton, Christ Church, Oxford, and Middle Temple, Judge in Ionian Isles, d. 1830.

Turnpike Meeting, who said he was pure well. I desir'd Mr. Delves to acquaint you of it on his journey to Battle. I shall be up with him again to-morrow afternoon. We are all very well; Mrs. W: is obliged by sister F's of this Morn:—joins in due Respects with, Dr Sr.,

Yr most dutiful son,

Wm. Woodgate."

The next communication is a short note:—

"Dear Sr,

Mr. Davis has done us the Honour of his Company at Dinner & promises to deliver safe into your Hands any Commission &c. In consequence I have taken the Liberty to inclose 35*l* in three Bank Notes, two of ten Pounds each and one of fifteen, which I hope you will receive safe. George Kiddar [tenant of Stonewall] has paid his rent to Michælmas last & promised the rest very soon, & James pd *£*17 7*s*. & I allowed 25*l* agreeable to Contract, $\frac{1}{2}$ a yrs rent due at Mich: last, & proposes to come & see you very soon.

I went to Penshurst on Thursday to see the Tree in Dispute wth Mr. Wakefield, but was prevented by the continual Rain of that day—wet thro' three Times. I receiv'd your Potatoes &c. for which I am much oblig'd; will return the sack &c. the first convenient Opportunity. I have planted upwards of two Acres. I am very much engag'd in Repairs &c. Mr. Davis waits & I am oblig'd to subscribe myself yrs most affectionately

Wm. Woodgate.

Due Respects to my Mother & Sisters. I believe you will see my Uncle & Aunts very soon. We should be very glad to see my Mother & you in Kent. Summerhill, Saturday Evening, May 17, 1777."

This letter, like many of the others, is sealed with the arms of Woodgate and Hooker impaled, surmounted with the crest.

The next letter, in 1782, contains an amusing account of William Woodgate's dealings with various timber merchants, over the sale of timber from some of the Chidingstone property. Timber was not the least valuable part of the produce, and from time to time brought in very considerable sums; in addition to the large timber there were a great number of young ash trees grown for hop-poles in the Tonbridge district, which were so arranged that one-seventh part of the number were cut every year.

"It is with some degree of Pleasure as well as Pain that I write you this letter. I apprehend you have long expected to hear from me, and the Reason that I have not wrote before is because I could not send you any kind of satisfactory account of any thing that I have attempted to perform.

I was in Hopes to have sold the Timber agreeable to the Account I sent you on my first Survey of it, but I have been very much disappointed and began at last to despair of getting a Markett for it this year. I offer'd it soon after I last wrote to you to Mr. Collins, & he went accordingly to see it, I mean to say he sent his Men for he never went himself, and when he came to deal for it I offer'd the whole to him for fifteen hundred guineas, which seemed to astonish him beyond all measure; nay, he carried it so far as to certify that no man living could buy it on those Terms, said it was view'd too high, & next that the Price was more than ever was given. I challeng'd him often to bid me something, but he went away without offering one Farthing. The next Day he sent his Servant to me, (his Clerk), offering to purchase it by Measure, or desiring that I wd get it view'd by other People—all which I flatly refused, but at last tender'd it for Pounds. It was still too high, & he never tempted me with any Price. Then came Mr. Edwards from Rotherhithe, a very pompous Man, & talked in a more pompous stile, but as he was to me a perfect Stranger my Terms were for ready Money only, to which he pretended to have no Objection, and accordingly he went to see it. I asked him 1500*l*, he bid me 1300*l*; several Letters pass'd between us. At last he bid me 1325*l* or five Guineas per Load to be

Mr. Wm. Woodgate to Mr. F. Woodgate Dr.

1781									
May 18th.	Recd of Mrs. Streatfeild a yrs Rent due at Michaelmas last	..	23	0	0				
Novr. 6th.	Of the Miss Jordans	.. .. .	20	0	0				
27th.	Of Mr. Delves a yrs rent at Mich...	.. .. .	46	4	0				
Decr. 23	Of G. Kiddar a yrs Rent for the Moat Farm due at Mich: last	.. .. .	84	2	0				
	Of do. for ye $\frac{1}{2}$ yrs Rent Stonewall	.. .. .	29	17	8				
1782.									
Jan ye 1st.	Of R. Hollamby, $\frac{1}{2}$ yr at Mich: last	.. .. .	6	0	0				
Feb ye 5th	Of Page $\frac{1}{2}$ yr Rent at Lady D...	.. .. .	30	4	0				
March ye 9th	Of G. Kiddar $\frac{1}{2}$ yr R. at Mich.	.. .. .	29	17	6				
Per Contra. Cr.								269	5 0
1781.									
For yrs Land Tax, Miss Jordans	.. .. .		14	0					
Nov. 6th	$\frac{1}{2}$ yrs Land Tax do.	.. .. .	7						
	By Interest pd to Mr. Weatherall for Bro: S: on note	.. .. .	33	16	0				
16th.	By 8 Dozn of Port Wine at 18/-	.. .. .	7	4	0				
	Corks for Do.	.. .. .	1	4					
Dec. 23rd.	To G: Kiddar in full Discharge of his Note and Interest for Bro: S:	.. .. .	171	8	0				
1782.	Jan, 1st. With R. Hollamby	.. .. .	1	4					
	Feb. ye 5th. With Page	.. .. .	1	0					
								213	12 8

By the above account you will find a balance of fifty five pounds twelve shillings & fourpence in yr Fav'r. Besides I have recd 50^l Draft at 20 Days after sight for the Ash so that I shall have fourscore Pounds in Hand. The Ash man pleads a hard Bargain, declares he has lost above ten pounds by it. The remainder will be paid very soon.

Now, Sr, I wait your Instructions how to apply this Money—shall I send it to you? Shall I give it to Bro: S: or what shall I do with it? Thad will pay his Rent in a short Time & so I should think Page would. And now I mention his name, he desires Leave to plow up about two Acres of Webland agt Hollamby's to plant wth Hops, and to wch Request I can see no very great Objection, but I wish to know yr Sentiments. But I must inform you that we have had a more desperate Rumpus. About ten days ago I hunted wth Mr. Harvey at Redleaf & the Hare gave us a Turn thro' Seedrups &c when to my great surprize I found seven or eight tellers grub'd up without any Leave, & two of them very fast growing Trees. It was under Pretence of sowing the Ground with Furze. I fir'd very much at this Treatment & threaten'd Vengeance. But upon Enquiry I understand the Butcher, to whom the whole is Let, was not at all concerned in the Transaction, it was the mere Act of his foolish Brother. Page the Butcher came over to me the next Day & brought Russel at Becksoar wth him, to certify his Innocence; he pleaded guilty & submitted to the Mercy of the Court. I have nothing to say to mitigate this offence, but I verily believe Page the Butcher, that is your tenant, is as honest a Man as any in the Kingdom, and as spirited a Tenant. I should be glad to know what you determine concern: the Liberty to plant Hops. My Fingers begin to get very cold; I find I have written a long Letter, have only to add our united Respects to yrself, my Mother & Sisters, & am, Dr. Sr., yr most affect: son

Wm. Woodgate."

In December, 1787, Henry Woodgate died, leaving his nephew William his executor, and his residuary legatee and devisee, in which devise was included Summerhill. It is fairly safe to assume that William came in for a good deal of ready cash,

for the next year he embarked on a considerable purchase in Pembury; but the event shall be related as far as possible in his own words, contained in a letter to his Father:—

Dear Sir,

“ Summerhill, June 19th, 1788.

Not having a Possibility of seeing you this week as I fully intended, I am set down to give you an Account of my late Proceedings and to inform you why I have not been at Mountfield agreeable to my promise. I have been engag'd in a very laborious Undertaking in viewing, surveying, & purchasing the Hawkwell Estate, which was expos'd to publick Auction at Garraway's Coffee House as you will see by the particulars herewith enclos'd the 4th inst. The Estate has certainly many Temptations for my situation. Its affinity, vast Tract of Country, manerial Rights &c. are very engaging, but above all I consider the immensity of young Timber and the great Compass of Woodlands as particularly inviting. I have purchased Lot the first, the fifth, and sixth, which comprehend most part of the Estate, and I think I may venture to add I have got a good Bargain. The farther particulars I shall postpone till I have the pleasure of seeing you, which I hope will be soon.

We are quite burnt up for want of Rain, and the cold winds and blasting weather of last week has set us to haying to endeavour to secure what little remains. The Corn does not seem to suffer. The old proverb that a Dryth never made a Dearth in England will I hope prove true at this Time. For Hops & Fruit we have very great Appearance, for the latter the most I ever remember. It is an ill Wind that blows no good. This Summer has been wonderful for the marling Business of which I have had a full Share. I shall cover between twenty and thirty Acres. I am afraid it will not be in my power to build the Oast House at Cowden this year. Geo: Boorne has been much afflicted with the Rheumatism, grows old very fast, and has engag'd a large Building for Mr. Simmons at the Cage. They don't like to go from Home. I had agreed with Wickham, Mr. Harvey's Carpenter who assisted us in the work at Chested, to do this Business, but he has disappointed me. It has given me a good deal of Uneasiness, as I know the Man wants it done, but he must be satisfied for another year. My Aunt complains very much of the Heat; to be sure her House is quite a stove. To add to her Comfort her Maid Molly is gone away very ill with little Hopes of her recovery. She wishes much that one of my Sisters would come and stay with her. Our little Ann is at present with her, but she is too young to be of any Service. Our Boys have broke up for their Midsummer holidays, and we expect Mr. William from Oxford (b) the Beginning of next month. We continue to hear very pleasant accounts of his liking his situation. I am sorry to give you the most alarming accounts of Mr. Jos: Weatherall. In all probability his Dissolution is fast approaching. His Journey to Lisbon was of no kind of Service; he is under the direction of Dr. Lettsom, who gives the Family no Hopes. When I was in Town he was at Carshalton, but so weak that he could not get to Tooting where he much wish'd to be.

There is a very capital Estate in this Neighbourhood to be sold, Sir William Twisden's at Peckham, the best that was ever offered at one time in the County. It comprehends the best part of the three best Parishes, the two Peckhams & Hadlow. Mr. Henham usessix hundred a year of that Estate and people say last year made more than ten thousand pounds of his Farms, a capital Yeoman of Kent. The Estate goes to market under the Direction of Mr. Scoones, our Cousin Thompson of Hall, & Mr. Lowten late agent to Bro: S: I understand there is an absolute Necessity for it all to be sold, & hear they ask sixty thousand pounds, & have been offered fifty. There is a material Difference between this & the Hawkwell Estate: in the former there is no poor Land, & in the latter none good. The former Rents at 20s per Acre, the latter at 5s, but 50*g* is 50*g* whether it is paid from good or poor land, & poor Land is more capable of Improvement & in my humble Opinion no Estates are so valuable as those where there is Timber.

(b) W. F. Woodgate matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, 12th March, 1788.

I shall send this by the Diligence & inclose a few Pidgeons wch were kill'd this Morning & I hope will prove good. Mrs. W. & my Family unite in all due Respects & good wishes to yourself & my Sisters wth, Dear Sir, yr most affectionate son
Wm. Woodgate."

The advertisement for sale of the estate appeared in the *Maidstone Journal* of 20th May, 1788. William Woodgate bought Lots 1, 5, and 6.

"At Garraway's Coffee House

To be sold by Auction. 4th June, 1788.

The following freehold estates of the annual value of about £800.

- Lot 1. A compact estate comprising the extensive Manors of Pepenbury Magna and Parva, otherwise Bowridge, with the Quitrents and Heriots amounting annually to £10 10/- the corn tythes of the Parish of Pembury producing £120, Great Hawkwell Farm let at £66, Little Hawkwell Farm let at £80, Church Farm let at £30, and 98a of fine woodland (Tithe free) valued at £37. Total value £418. Also the Perpetual Advowson of the Vicarage of Pembury, the incumbent 66, and the annual value about £150.
 - Lot 2. 12 acres called the Binns let at £4 15/-.
 - Lot 3. A House, Smiths Shop and 7 acres at Pembury Green let to Mr. Fry for £16.
 - Lot 4. Culverden Farm, well situate for building near the Wells, containing 92 acres lately let at £50 but now on hand.
 - Lot 5. Little Haleshole Farm let at £20 and Rules Wood 19 acres, valued at £7.
 - Lot 6. Great Haleshole Farm, 1 mile from the Wells, containing 153 acres, lately let at £60 but now on hand. Inam's field 9 acres let at £5, and 141 acres of fine woodland on hand. Tithe free, valued at £52.
- Each lot is perfectly complete with suitable farm buildings."

The next letter related to the Moat. This was an ancient Manor, for many years disused, holden of the superior Manor of Lewisham. The latter belonged to Wickenden, who left it to his two sons. One of these sold his share to the Ash-downes, through whom it was eventually acquired by John Driver; the other half belonged to the Bassetts. Michael Bassett, the last of the family, left three daughters and coheirresses, one of whom married John Burgess. Hence the claim. Driver subsequently sold his share to Mr. Streatfeild of Chidingstone.

"Summerhill, Monday Even:

Decr. 8th, 1788.

Dear Sir,

I attended the Court at Cowden agreeable to your Desire, at which a very few People were present except the Lords of the Manor, Mr. Crowther & his clerk. I took much pains to enquire into the merits of their claim, and from what I can collect it was for that Part of the great Manor of Lewisham in the parish of Cowden—four Tenants only in the whole, your's by far the most considerable, namely for upwards of three hundred Acres late Gainsford's, from which I should suppose that the Moat was purchased of that Family. They have no Court Rolls nor original Grant, only a Book wherein the different Receipts for Quitrents are entered. It does not appear that they ever kept a Court. The Bassetts were the former owners, and in the above Book in the year 1731 there is a Receipt for Quitrents from my Uncle Wm. witness thereto my late Uncle Wm., Heriots, Alienations &c. then paid, I suppose upon the Death of my Grandfather, with a particular promise from . . . Bassett, to return the several sums if they could not substantiate their claim. All this seems to be in my Uncle William's own hand writing, since which it has been paid by my Uncle John & afterwards by you, which receipt I have from Burgess the Tanner, the Father of the present claimant. Crowther declares that when he lived with my Brother he saw the above receipt. Mr. Streatfield has purchased part of the Lands, & his tenant Burfoot attended that day & paid the Quitrent. In all Events I am sure you have no right to pay them the whole, as I believe John Saxby of Hadlow is entitled to a third. Without better Information I did not think it proper to pay that Day, but directed Mr. Crowther to apply to my Brother and if

upon his Examination of the Papers it should appear they could make out their claim, I would pay them forthwith. I have since seen Stephen and given him the particulars, and desired that it might be seen into immediately. It certainly is a very extraordinary Demand. I think there is no one paper or record that can fix it on the Moat Farm. It is every where mentioned as upwards of three hundred Acres of Land late Gainsford's. The Caveat entered in their own Book by my Uncle William in the year 1731 sufficiently shews that it was then a thing of Dispute, which has never been cleared up. It is a Matter of some Consequence; they boast of this Manor, have appointed one Driver Gamekeeper (who by the bye is one of the Claimants as Lords of the said Manor). I was much embarrassed to know how to act. Your last Letter by Sister Anne was decisive to finish in. Bro: S: has heard the contents, and has been instructed by no means to hazard a Suit till I have seen you, which I hope to do about Christmas.

We are at present engag'd in viewing the Timber on the Hawkwell Estate, a Gentleman from Monmouthshire sent up by Mr. Jones on their part, & Thorn of Brenchley, surveyor to Mr. Collins, appointed by me. I heartily wish it was settled, and hope & trust it will not be long before it is quite Completed. My Sister makes us a very short visit; we cannot prevail with her to stay any longer. I refer you to her for all the News of this Country. Mrs. W: & my Family unite in all due respects and good wishes to yrself, my Sister & Alicia with, Dear Sir, your most dutiful & affectionate son,

Wm. Woodgate."

The Rev. Francis Woodgate died in 1790, leaving his eldest son executor and residuary legatee and devisee. Again William came into a considerable sum, and negotiated several purchases. His next purchase, however, a large one, was concluded just before the death of his father. We take this opportunity of making some mention of them.

It has been stated, on p. 39, that John Villiers sold 1,200 acres of land, part of the original Summerhill estate, to Abraham Hill. Hasted says that the land lay adjoining the high road leading from Tonbridge to Rye, opposite Summerhill park gates, and extended thence almost to Pembury Church; that from Hill the land passed to Edward Whatmore, from Whatmore to James Templer, and from him to the Rev. John Templer.

It was this land that Woodgate purchased, which was conveyed to him by an Indenture dated the 8th July, 1790, made between the Rev. John Templer of Lindridge in the Co. of Devon, clerk of the one part, and William Woodgate of Summerhill Esq. of the other part. The purchase money was £14,100. The description of the land is very long and somewhat involved; when we examined the deed on the Close Rolls, time was short, but the following particulars, though incomplete (and in much abbreviated form), may be of interest.

1. House and 60a. land in Southfrith near the Old Forge.
2. $\frac{1}{2}$ a meadow, formerly part of Old Forge pond.
3. House and 120a. of land in South Frith next Old Forge Lane on the N.W.
- 4-8. Small parcels containing together 20a.
9. Fair Oaks Place, 7a.
10. Piece of rough ground at tail of Forge pond, 2a. (4-10, abutting upon the lane leading from the Old Forge to the Great Lodge *i.e.* Summerhill, North and East).
11. Two fields and a shaw, called Roach Pit field, 9a.
12. 15a. and a wood, next the said lane on the East.
13. Kipperwell Corner, 5a.
All the above were formerly in the occupation of William Pocock and then of Jeffrey Burling; and were part of the forest or park of South Frith.
14. A house wherein Alex. Caillard formerly dwelt and 94a.

15. Meadowland, 2a.
 16. House called Knowles Hill Farm and 120a., abutting on the Highway leading from Pellet Gate to Fairthorne, S, W, and N; and lands late of Henry Woodgate N. and E.
 17. 4a. arable Land.
14-17 in Tonbridge or Tudely, late in the occupation of Thomas Wells and then of Thomas Hartrup; formerly part of the Forest of South Frith.
 18. Fish Lodge and 73a., occupied by Eliz. King, widow.
 19. Fairhouse, and 19 fields in South Frith, occupied by Thomas Hartrup.
 20. Deadman's Farm and 19 fields, (83a.) next Pembury Walk Wood on the N.
 21. House in South Frith and numerous woods, all named, including Devalls Wood. (Query, is this the right way of spelling *Devil's* Bridge?). New Bears Wood, Pembury Walk Wood, Fairthorne Wood, Knowles Wood &c. All parcel of the park or forest of South Frith and occupied by Templer.
 22. Numerous smaller pieces.
 23. Mercer's farm.
 24. The powder mills, in the occupation of Messrs. Hooker & Co, with outhouses, buildings, etc., by the Old Forge.
- Witnessed by William Scoones, Tonbridge.

We are inclined to think that the whole 1,200 acres was not comprised in this deed, but that there was another conveyance as well. Time alone prevented the solution of this question.

In his observations on Summerhill, at the beginning of the last century, Amsinck says:—

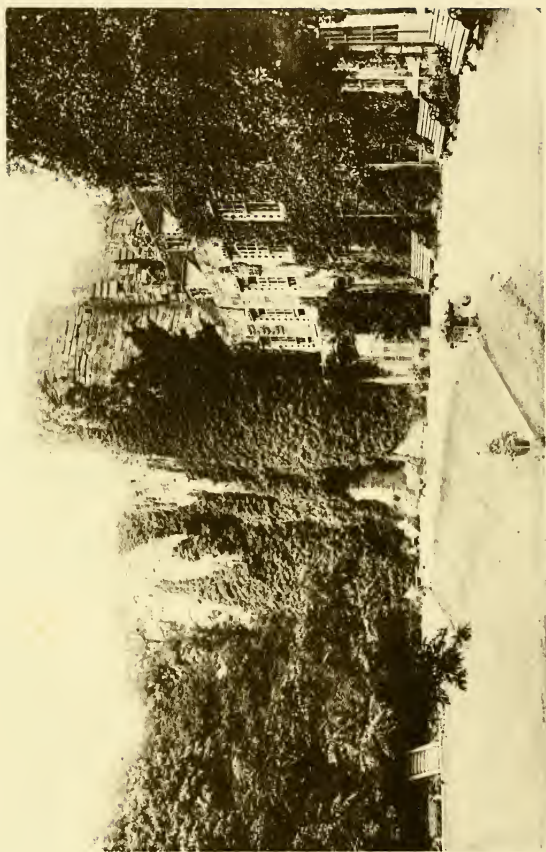
“It has been noticed that much of the lands had been separated from the mansion house before it came into the possession of the Woodgates. It has been the fortunate lot of the present proprietor to have been enabled to re-unite much of this dispersed property, which is at present said to be fully equal to the support of this noble mansion. . . .”

A further property in Tonbridge was conveyed to William Woodgate by an Indenture dated 7th July, 1791. The vendors were the devisees of Lady Smythe of Bounds, (widow of the Rt. Hon. Sir Sidney Stafford Smythe). It was only 7a. known as Bourn Mill Mead; and the purchase money was £273, with £24 extra for timber.

A much more interesting purchase was that of 1793—of Tonbridge Castle. As there already exist so many and such learned accounts of that historical fortress, it would be a pity to engross valuable space in attempting to do that which has been far better done by others. We will therefore refer the reader to Hasted, amongst others, and recapitulate in the briefest language some of the main points.

Richard Fitz-Gilbert, one of the principal persons who accompanied the Conqueror to England, obtained the fair domain of Tonbridge; his son, Richard, assumed the surname of Clare. Their arms were, “Or, three chevrons gules.” It has been considered that this circumstance explains why the chevron is so frequent in the coats of the gentry living in the neighbourhood. The Clares held Tonbridge for many years. Among subsequent owners were the Earl of Gloucester; Hugh de Audley, Earl of Gloucester; the Earls of Stafford; the Dukes of Buckingham; John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, afterwards Duke of Northumberland; Cardinal Pole; and Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon, from whom it eventually passed to Sir Peter Vanlore, Bart.

The latter left no issue male. His three daughters who married respectively the Earl of Stirling, Sir Robert Cook, and Henry Zinzan, Esq. accordingly succeeded; and Tonbridge Castle, Manor, and certain of the demesne lands fell to Zinzan. In 1739, that family sold it to John Hooker.



TONBRIDGE CASTLE, the Seat of W. F. Woodgate, Esq.

Tonbridge Castle ceased to be regularly occupied after the fall of the Duke of Buckingham in 1521, from which time it began to decay. It was fortified in the time of the great rebellion; but the fortifications were dismantled in 1646. The place was of vast strength; and in spite of neglect and worse, the sacrilegious treatment it received from the spendthrift heir of the Vanlores, who sold much of the casing of the wall; and the determined, but fruitless, efforts of Thomas Hooker to destroy part of it to make room for his house, much of the ruins remain, in singular beauty. The outer walls, part of which remain, enclosed an area of six acres, which are now occupied by the Castle grounds, reaching down to the Medway, which was formerly part of the Moat.

Amsinck says, "It was the intention of Mr. Hooker to have converted this tower into a house for his own residence, but it was found to be scarcely practicable consistently with modern habits and ideas, at least not without too glaring a trespass on the exterior and vital character of the ancient edifice. Having given up this idea, he fell upon a scheme which, in the opinion of many persons, will be deemed equally objectionable; he built a modern stone house within the area of the fortress, immediately adjoining the great tower. He cannot certainly be complimented on his taste; it is a species of architectural sacrilege. It must be noticed however that the present proprietor [W. F. Woodgate] does not participate in the sin. He found the modern intruder on the spot; and has done everything which good taste could dictate to make it as little offensive as possible, whilst the zeal with which he preserved the ancient remains, and the liberality with which he allows them to be inspected by the curious, proclaim that such a barbarism would not have originated with him; and that the innovation will proceed no further."

In May, 1793, Christie offered for sale, at his great room in Pall Mall:—

"A desirable freehold estate consisting of the Manor of Tonbridge, with Courts Leet and Baron, free warren &c. and extensive fishery in the River Medway, quit rents, fines, rights of toll, of markets, fairs &c. &c. together with the venerable castle, elevated mount embellished with plantations, in the midst of pleasure grounds disposed with taste, exuberant kitchen garden with lofty walls, richly clothed with choice fruit trees in a full state of bearing.

"Also adjoining to the Castle a new built Stone House nearly finished, and all suitable attached offices, stabling for ten horses, double coach House, large barn &c. &c. suited to the Villa as well as to the farm, and rich inclosures, amounting in the whole to 13a & 35 poles (or thereabouts) forming a most complete residence for a large family.

"Also, in six following lots, about 80 acres of rich meadow, pasture and hop ground, & in small part arable land, valuable pottery &c."

It was not sold, and (after selling off 40a. privately, to whom we know not), the whole place was offered again by public auction in August (c). William Woodgate became the purchaser, finished off the house, and settled it in 1794 on his eldest son William Francis Woodgate, in marriage with Miss Allnutt. His eldest sister, Frances, had shortly before married Miss Allnutt's brother, Richard Allnutt of South Park (see chap. XII), and the double wedding was celebrated in verse by the facile pen of George Children of Ferox Hall, an old friend of the family (d):

(c) In October, 1793, there was a two days' sale of the household furniture of Thomas Hooker of Tonbridge, consisting of mahogany bedsteads, dining tables, cabinets, chairs, &c.; a fine-toned harpsichord and music book; an expensive library; a coach and harness; four horses; and various other articles, the bulk of which appear to have been of mahogany. No pictures, plate, linen, or china are mentioned.

(d) These verses and the succeeding set are taken from old and faded manuscripts in our possession. They were printed in *Memoirs of J. G. Children*, but in slightly different form.

1

Young Cupid and Hymen, some summers ago,
 (On frolic and joy ever bent),
 Set out on a fortnight's excursion or so
 To the Watering places in Kent.

2

At Margate they stopp'd, at Ramsgate and Hythe,
 At each some employment they found ;
 And they parted from all of them buxom and blythe,
 With success their joint efforts still crowned.

3

To Tunbridge at last thro' the rich Weald they rode,
 And as business they there might rely on,
 They agreed there awhile to prolong their abode,
 And took lodgings at Fry's on Mount Sion.

4

The Walks and the Rooms ev'ry morning and night
 With glorious effect they attended ;
 Cupid shot with a judgement unerringly right,
 And Hymen the matter soon ended.

5

For health and for pleasure and business perchance,
 At noon, if not checked by the Heat,
 Like other good people, to chase *non-chalance*,
 They rode out to each neighbouring Seat.

6

As beneath the two Beaches that crown Summer Hill
 With the Prospect enchanted they stood,
 The Lord of the Mansion, brimfull of Good-will,
 Rode out of the Garden Coppice Wood.

7

At the sight of two strangers he pulled up his poney,
 And liking their looks and their air,
 He rode up, joined in chat, and *sans ceremonie*
 Asked them home to partake of his fare.

8

The Gods nothing doubting the Luck of his Pot
 Right gladly the summons attend ;
 For they both knew him well (tho' them he knew not)
 And each had been warmly his friend.

9

He showed them all over the house with much glee,
 And with Social talk the time cheered,
 Till *Robert* announced that the clock had struck Three,
 And the Ladies and Dinner appeared.

10

Bows over, and so forth, they sat down to eat,
 And no soul would have thought they were Gods ;
 They shewed their kind Hosts how they relished their meat,
 And beat Billy Bowman by odds.

11

But they tasted a much greater treat all the while
 In the family circle around them ;
 Hymen cast on them all a benevolent smile,
 And Cupid most rare subjects found them.

12

After tea they took leave and mounted their Nags,
 And as they rode back to the Wells,
 "My dear little fellow," says Hymen, "I'fegs,
 Those are brave lads and nice little Belles."

13

Says Cupid, "Our Hosts gave us excellent cheer,
 I liked nor their boiled nor their roast ill,
 But they well nigh had paid for their kindness full dear,
 For, egad, I could scarce keep my Bow still."

14

"Nay, Cupid," says Hymen, "no shaft must be shot
 At that group without nicest discretion;
 You and I must both use all the Judgement we've got,
 Of bliss to secure their possession."

15

The next Day to Penshurst their airing they took,
 Saw the House with good old Raw's assistance,
 And as from a window they happen'd to look
 They espied a fair Dame at small distance.

16

They asked, "Whose that Villa?" "Lord! Sirs," says the Dame,
 "That's South-Park, full of beauty and grace;
 And the owner, God bless him! (Squire Allnutt by name)
 Is thoroughly worthy the place."

17

Good Allnutt they both recollected, and sighed
 That *their* favour had cost him so dear;
 And they knew that it now was his lot and his pride,
 A third generation to rear.

18

They vow'd they'd go see both the place and the man,
 And asked if the young folk were down?
 Mrs. Raw answer'd Yes, and with rapture began
 The *Dear* Creatures with praises to crown.

19

Then straight they took Horse, and to South-Park they went,
 And, tho' there, as at Woodgate's, unknown,
 Again they were quickly convinced that in Kent
 Hospitality'd set up her throne.

20

The worthy old gentleman welcom'd them in
 To a sandwich and excellent wine,
 Called his *Grand Children* round their good graces to win,
 And fain would have kept them to dine.

21

They politely declined,—but with eyes never tired
 Walked the Wood and the Lawn with their Host;
 And all that they saw they sincerely admired,
 But himself and his family most.

22

Returning, I scarce can tell which said it first,
 (For both it so forcibly struck
 That each with the thought was just ready to burst),
 "Good Heavens, what wonderful luck!"

23

"At once both our generous hosts to reward
 "Kind fortune hath pointed the way;
 "And what to us both seem'd but yesterday hard
 "Is perfectly easy to day.

24

"Summer Hill and South-Park! two such places so near,
 "Both with Health, Wealth, and *Goodness* so filled!
 "Sure nothing on earth was ever more clear
 "Than that Heaven their union has will'd."

25

"Aye," says Cupid, "and if I have not lost my aim,
 "And my arrows are not blunted quite,
 "'Tis not me, brother Hymen, you ever shall blame
 "If *doubly* they do not unite."

26

Hymen quickly conceived what the sly urchin meant,
 And his meaning was just to his mind;
 So he gave the proposal his hearty consent,
 And behold! here are two couple joined.

27

All praise then to Cupid and Hymen we'll sing,
 And all joy to the Pairs they have bless'd;
 And let none of us doubt who sit round in this ring
 But they'll take as good care of the rest.

28

Meanwhile the fair Union, thus strongly begun,
 May no fate or disaster e'er sever—
 Summer-Hill and South-Park! may they ever be one,
 And Woodgate and Allnutt for ever.

"Billy Bowman" was none other than W. F. Woodgate himself, so called because he belonged to an Archery Club known as the "Kentish Bowmen." The Society was founded in 1789 by J. E. Madox; the entrance fee was ten guineas, and the annual subscription $1\frac{1}{2}$ guineas. The qualification for membership was a freehold in Kent of the annual value of £10; and there was a fine of £100 on every member who married. The uniform was a grass green coat, buff linings, buff waistcoat and breeches; black collar to coat, uncut velvet in winter and tabber silk in summer, with yellow buttons. The first year there were 11 members; the second, 30; the third, 123. This great increase was due to the Prince of Wales becoming Patron, when Bowman's Lodge on Dartford Heath was made the rendezvous, and meetings were held there every Saturday during the summer. The Society came to an end in 1802.

The following verses, from the same pen, were sung at Anna Allnutt's wedding, by her sister Susanna:—

I

"Oh! how shall I this chequered Day
 My mixed emotions tell!
 How force my faltering tongue to say,
 My Sister dear, farewell!
 If cheerfully to kindred worth
 My Anna I resign,
 Can I forget that from my birth
 Dear Anna has been mine?"



WILLIAM FRANCIS WOODGATE, Esq. of Summerhill, about 1794.

2

Can I forget our Infant Joys
 In common we possessed,
 That all our Infant griefs and joys
 Were shar'd by either breast?
 The pleasing works of Art and taste
 Together we were taught,
 One sketch our little pencil traced,
 One flower our needle wrought.

3

In the same Air our voices join'd,
 On the same string we play'd,
 Even now how Irksome 'tis I find
 To sing without her aid.
 Our friendship with our years improved
 And with our reason grew,
 And sure two sisters never loved
 With harmony more true,

4

Then how can I without a tear,
 Without regret most tender,
 My friend, companion, sister dear
 To other Hands surrender?
 But this is all too sad a strain
 To suit a wedding day;
 Methinks you are ready to exclaim,
 Nay, prithee, let's be gay.

5

Well then, adieu the whining strain,
 No more of fond lamenting,
 Susanna is herself again,
 To this fair match consenting;
 Reason prevails, no selfish care
 My breast again shall enter,
 Like yours my every wish & care
 In Anna's bliss shall centre.

6

Mean while her happiness I'll tend
 With vigilance most steady,
 And e'er profess myself as friend
 And Guardian ever ready.
 Yes, mark me as yourself you bear,
 My worthy, lucky Bowman,
 I'll treat you as a Brother dear
 Or as my deadly foe-man.

7

If e'er you fail in that respect
 My Anna's virtues merit,
 And by unkindness or neglect
 Shall vex her gentle spirit,
 Nor Moat nor Drawbridge, Dike nor Mound
 Shall from my rage secure you,
 Till you within your Castle's round
 With Bats and Owls immure you.

But if you cherish as you ought
 The treasures you possess,
 And dedicate your every thought
 Her every hour to bless,
 I'll meet you still with vizard glad
 And never failing Glee,
 And scarcely better love the Lad
 Who'll do as much for me.

Meanwhile national affairs were in a serious and even desperate state. A great meeting was convened by the Sheriff of Kent at Maidstone, on 11th April, 1794. Two thousand persons attended. A resolution was passed amid great enthusiasm, "That the present critical state of affairs appears to render imperative general and individual exertion; and that therefore a subscription be immediately opened, to provide for the defence of the county from foreign invasion or domestic tumult; that the plan of forming troops of cavalry to consist of gentlemen and yeoman seems best adapted to this purpose; and that any person who will undertake to form such a company should give in his name to the Lord Lieutenant, and be appointed Captain, with power to nominate his inferior officers; that the subscriptions be applied towards their equipment, formation and continuance, and otherwise for defence as the committee thinks fit; and that the Militia be augmented."

Each troop was to consist of fifty, afterwards increased to fifty-eight. They were to have no levy money, but were to serve during the war without pay, unless called out and embodied; to find their own horses and clothing; Government to provide arms (e) and accoutrements as usually provided for cavalry, and to provide a Sergeant for each troop, who was to be fitted at the expense of the troop. Yeomanry to be liable for active service on invasion or for the suppression of riots, when they were to be paid as dragoons.

A committee was formed, consisting of all subscribers of £10 and upwards, of whom seven should be competent to act.

This was the plan submitted by the Duke of Dorset, the Lord Lieutenant. The response was immediate, and large sums were subscribed on the spot; below are a few of the names:—

Duke of Dorset, £500.

Lord Bayham (Camden) £200

W. Woodgate, Esq., £50

F. M. Austen, Esq., £50

W. F. Woodgate, Esq., £25

J. F. Claridge, Esq., £21

Further subscriptions continued to pour in afterwards, such as:—

Henry Woodgate, Esq., £30
 (Riverhill).

Tristram Everest, Esq., £20

Rev. W. Humphry, £10

Mr. John Mugridge, £10
 (Tonbridge).

Lord Romney, £300

Sir John Shaw, £100

Geo: Children, Esq., £50

Richard Allnutt, Esq., £30

Stephen Woodgate, Esq., £21

Aug: Greenland, Esq., £21

Lord Amherst, £300

J. Allnutt, Esq., £21
 (Eltham).

Mr. Wm. Scoones, £5

John Weatherall, Esq., £10

There are, literally, hundreds of names, and by the end of April the total amount was over £10,000, with further subscriptions still coming in.

At a meeting on 15th April, it was resolved that John Fellowes Claridge and Stephen Woodgate, attorneys at law, should be appointed to receive monies and

(e) Mr. W. B. Woodgate some time since picked up in a second hand shop an old carbine marked "Woodgate's," formerly belonging (it is supposed) to one of the Major's troopers.



MRS. W. F. WOODGATE of Summerhill (formerly Anna Allnutt), about 1794.

subscriptions in the Sevenoaks district. Also, that every captain forming a troop should be allowed £7 for each man on formation, and £60 for the sergeant's horse and clothing (f).

The first batch of men to offer to raise troops were:—

Earl of Darnley	Capt. William Hammond
Sir Edward Knatchbull, Bart.	Capt. Percival Hart Dyke
Hon. J. Thomas Townshend	Capt. William Woodgate
Capt. Henry Oxenden	Earl Camden

Sir John Honeywood, Bart.

Woodgate's troop was officered by Henry Woodgate (William's brother) Lieutenant, and William Streatfeild of Southborough, Cornet.

In June, James Holwell of Tunbridge Wells offered to raise a Troop; and in August, James Moneypenny did the same. After these, no more troops were raised.

The first troop to appear was Sir Edward Knatchbull's and soon afterwards Capt. Dyke's.

In 1795, we read of Woodgate's troop being entertained at Southborough. "Wednesday, August 19th, in honour of the Prince of Wales' Birthday, the Tonbridge Troop of Gentlemen and Yeomen Cavalry, commanded by Capt. Woodgate, and the Tunbridge Wells Troop, commanded by Lt. Col. Holwell, assembled in Bounds Park, fired three volleys, and performed their evolutions together in Brigade, (Capt. Woodgate taking the command, as being captain of the Senior Troop), after which they had a sham fight and dined together on Southborough Common, where a naval tent 100 feet long was erected, and an elegant dinner given by Mr. Samuel Hurron, a respectable farmer of Southborough, and where much loyalty and conviviality prevailed."

One of the Troopers (I.H.) about this time, in November, 1796, sought to express his loyalty in verse, entitled "*The Kent Volunteers*," respectfully inscribed to Captain Woodgate and the Tonbridge Troop.

"Tune: Liberty Hall—

Sound the Trumpet, and call out your Soldiers to Arms,
Whose bosoms true old English Liberty warms;
See, France rears her head, and with fury appears;
Let her come—we're prepared—with the Kent Volunteers.
Fol le rol.

She threatens our King and she threatens our Coast;
Her threats are in vain, let her bluster and boast;
Let her come if she dare, there's no Briton that fears,
Kent shall rest her defence on her own Volunteers.

Shall Frenchmen our spirits of Freedom subdue?
Plant Guillotines here, where Liberty grew?
Our King, too, destroy with whate'er we hold dear?
Bravely die first each Briton and Kent Volunteer.

Led on by our worthy Commander we'll go,
Intrepid and firm, we will brave every foe;
When our Chief gives command, to obey him we'll fly
And each Kent Volunteer return Victor or die.

Form your lines—pray be steady—dress front and rear Ranks,
To the Right and Left outwards, wheel, wheel on your Flanks;
Draw Swords—charge the Foe—dress—pursue them amain,
They've been oft dressed before, and we'll dress them again.

(f) At a meeting of the Committee in July, 1794 (Duke of Dorset in the Chair, and present eight other members, including W. F. Woodgate), it was resolved to allow each Captain £150 for refitting his troop.

May the True sons of Kent with respect e'er be named,
 Nor forfeit the title their grandfathers gained;
 But united and firm may defend the old Cause,
 Their King and their Country, their Freedom and Laws.
 To the Kent Volunteers now a Bumper we'll fill,
 Men of Kent brave and loyal always were, and are still;
 To our Captain, Lieutenant and Cornet three cheers,
 Glory, Health and Success to the Kent Volunteers."

In June, 1797, the eight troops of Yeomanry belonging to the Western Division of the county met at the Wilderness, Seal, where they were reviewed by General Fox in the presence of nearly 6,000 spectators. The troops, commanded by Lord Darnley, formed line at twelve o'clock and went through various evolutions; and their steady attention and soldier-like appearance evoked the greatest applause. The troops afterwards partook of a dinner provided for them by Lord Camden in a large tent, "after which several loyal songs were sung and toasts given, and the day concluded with the utmost harmony and conviviality."

In April, 1798, "The Tunbridge and Tunbridge Wells Troops of Volunteer Cavalry, commanded by Captains Woodgate and Howell, were reviewed in Bounds Park by Major General Fox, who expressed in a pointed manner his approbation of their appearance and manœuvres. After the review the General and his suite, with the officers of his squadron, Lord Darnley &c. were elegantly entertained by Capt. Woodgate at Tunbridge Castle. These troops have engaged to serve in any part of Kent, Surrey or Sussex."

In July the troops were again reviewed at Seal, as in the previous year. In November, William Streatfeild died at Southborough, and William Scoones was appointed Cornet in the following March. In 1809 William Ford Burton was appointed Cornet, vice Carnell promoted.

On 1st August, 1799, the King himself was pleased to inspect the various Volunteer corps of Kent in Lord Romney's park at the Mote. He was accompanied by the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of Cumberland, of Gloucester and of York, the Lord Chancellor, Mr. Pitt, the Prince of Orange, and other illustrious persons. The whole of the troops numbering over 6,000 were under the command of Lieut-General Sir Robert Lawrie. The head of the column was composed of the first corps of West Kent Yeomanry Cavalry under Lord Camden, composed of a troop of Kent Guides under Capt. Hussey, Lord Camden's Sevenoaks Troop, Major Woodgate's Tonbridge Troop, Capt. the Hon. J. Townsend's Chislehurst Troop and the various others in order. Major Hammond commanded the Second Corps of East Kent Yeomanry Cavalry, and Lieut.-General Fox commanded the Kent Volunteer Infantry and Artillery. Lord Romney provided lunch for the whole of the troops in temporary booths, and His Majesty departed profoundly impressed and gratified.

The following month a meeting at the George Inn, Sittingbourne, was convened by some of the officers, including W. F. Woodgate, P. Nouaille, Stephen Woodgate, and J. F. Claridge, to consider some lasting memorial to Lord Romney's generous behaviour on the occasion, such as a column or some public monument. J. F. Claridge was deputed to act as Secretary of the Committee.

W. F. Woodgate was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in August, 1797, his father having been made one in 1792. He was likewise a magistrate, and his name appears in lists of the grand jury at Maidstone, in special commissions, and other county business. In October, 1802, he was appointed a Trustee of the Tunbridge Wells Chapel, together with Lord Camden, Lord Neville, Lord Marsham, F. M. Austen, Richard Hardy Yorke, George Children and Thomas Christopher Gardiner. The surviving Trustees were Lord Abergavenny, Lord Romney and John Austen.

This "structure or fabrick for a chappell for the use and exercise of Religious worship and celebration of divine service and hearing of sermons was erected and built diverse years since by the pious and charitable contributions of diverse well disposed persons upon a piece or parcel of ground near Tunbridge Wells in the parish of Tonbridge which was formerly part of certain lands called Inhams and part of the late park or forest called Southfrith"—not, as Hasted says, with the pulpit in Speldhurst, the altar in Tonbridge, and the vestry in Frant. This land had formerly belonged to John "Earl of Buckingham and Viscount Purbeck, only son and heir of the Right Hon. Margaret Viscountess Purbeck deceased" (see p. 39). The Trust deed was dated February, 1703.

Among the original Trustees seem to have been Viscount Purbeck, Thomas Lake of the Middle Temple, Thomas Weller of Tonbridge, the Bishop of Rochester, Sir Humphry Miller of West Peckham, William Sherlock, Dean of St. Paul's, and Charles Amherst of Bayhall. The first new trustees appointed were Lord Abergavenny, Sir George Rivers of Chafford, Bart, Sir Edward Northey the Attorney General, Sir William Cave Canon of Windsor, Dr. Rensburg Rector of St. Paul's, Shadwell, William Strong of Tonbridge, Jeffrey Amherst of Riverhead, and John Dyke of Frant. In 1727 Sir George Rivers was the sole surviving Trustee.

Meanwhile the two youngest sons, John and Stephen, were at school at Tonbridge. We have some account of Skinner's Day (or Founder's Day) in 1795, when the Skinners visited Tonbridge and were welcomed as usual in a Latin speech by the head boy, Vicesimus Knox, to which Dr. Finch, Prebendary of Westminster, replied. Next morning the Skinners went to Church, to distribute their extensive charities, and then to School House to be present at the examinations and hear the Greek and Latin speeches delivered by the six head boys. Afterwards the Company dined at the Rose & Crown, with a great many of the gentlemen living in the neighbourhood; the dinner was followed by songs.

In the evening the whole company returned to the school where all the ladies of Tonbridge were assembled, and were entertained for nearly two hours with verses from the pen of Dr. Knox, the Head Master, all of which (with one single exception—though which, we are not informed) were spoken with judgment and propriety by the ten head boys—Knox's, Scoones, Rich, Mitford, Davies, Goldfinch, Baker, and Woodgate's. "All the speeches breathed a very becoming spirit of loyalty and were truly deserving of the praise which they experienced. The just tribute paid in Mr. V. Knox's concluding address to the virtues of Mr. Gregg, late Member for Morpeth, and who attended this meeting for 35 successive years, received that heartfelt applause which verses written so elegantly and delivered so feelingly must ever deserve."

In 1797 much the same thing occurred. "The day was spent with the usual festivity, and Major Woodgate and several other gentlemen much increased the conviviality by some excellent songs. . . . The Company of Skinners have very liberally doubled their subscriptions to the poor, to whom they give bread every Sunday throughout the year; and on the day of their visitation each man receives a warm stout piece of cloth (sufficient in quantity to make a coat and waistcoat), a loaf of bread and five shillings. . . . The Gentlemen who spoke were the Messrs. Bakers, Bruleys, Davies, Grant, Tho: Knox, Kemble, Mitfords, Smith and Woodgate. Mr. T. Knox particularly distinguished himself in a most beautifully descriptive blank verse poem entitled "The Tunbridge School-Boy." Mr. Mitford was animated in his "Introductory Address"; Mr. Baker spoke with feeling and taste in an elegant copy of Greek verses; Messrs. Grant, Woodgate, Baker minor and Davies were very happy in their comic attempts; and Bruley major concluded with a speech of appropriate allusion, skilfully delivered."

The dialogue spoken by Robert Mitford and Stephen Woodgate on 9th May, 1799, has been published in Rivington's History of Tonbridge School, p. 104. We

have also the "Epilogue" written by Anne Woodgate and spoken by Stephen at the school after his Comrades had performed two Scenes in Terence's play of *The Brothers*, before Dr. Knox, October 18th, 1798.

"Bravo, my boys, I'm glad to see all this
You've got off well without one little miss".
"Charmingly played," they all cry out and roar,
"I never saw it so well done! Encore!"
Because they never saw it done before!
They say in works poetic there should be
At first or last a little simile;
Now to a *dinner* I this play compare,
Which to the mind is most *delicious fare*.
Terence the *Cook*, who with unrivall'd art
Has *dressed* with wit & humour every part;
The Boys are *Waiters*, and serve up the *feast*
To you, good Sir, who are our honoured *guest*.
But as they're young in office, t'was thought meet
To give you but two *courses* for your *treat*;
But when they're more accustomed to the *Board*,
You shall have *three*, I pledge it on my word.

These courses now removed (as I'm a sinner)
I bring the *cheese* to this dramatic *dinner*;
But as the *Cook* doth seldom make the *cheese*,
Mine is my own, too *coarse* I fear to please;
With little *taste* and less of *mighty wit*,
You ne'er can *relish* this my *home-made* bit.
But *Rabbit it!* you know all things must grow,
And when the *sage* appears upon my brow,
I trust you then will find I can with ease
By you instructed *make* a better *cheese*.

In February, 1797, Stephen Woodgate was set to compose some lines on the "Horrors of War." Anxious to evade the exertion, or distrusting his capacity, he requested the aid of his sister Maria, who produced the following:—

"O War! thou source of every Human woe,
From thy terrific Reign what Sorrows flow!
Fair Science takes her flight when you appear,
And commerce droops her Head in deep despair;
Justice and Truth, with Pity, hide their face;
Rapine and Murder have usurped their place.
Arise, great Bridport, arm'd with terrors go,
Defend thy Country and chastise the foe.
Go teach this lesson to Proud France and Spain,
That Britain's Navy still commands the Main.
Bid Horrid War and foreign faction cease,
And Bless this Isle again with smiling Peace."

She also wrote for him this epigram in February, 1797:—

"Mourn, Rome, oh mourn, for thou hast much to fear;
Behold, the French before thy gates appear.
Like sheep diseased, too surely wilt thou fall,
For now alas! thou art one man with *Gaul*."

Here is a letter from Maria Woodgate in 1796 to her friend Susan Allnutt, afterwards Mrs. Garthwaite, staying at 2, Coopers Row, Crutchet Friars, London.

"Summer Hill, Thursday Evening, Jan, 21st, 1796.

A word to the wise. Its a wonder to me that you, who are a citizen and enjoy

the Town before you, should think me, a Country girl, and who may almost be styled the Child of Nature, capable of reading your letter which I received on old *Twelfth Night*; but I found *Ways and Means* to make it out in a *Quarter of an hour after supper*, though I am sure I should have puzzled my brains till the *midnight hour* had not my brothers given me a way to unravel the *mystery*. We were *all in the wrong* in supposing Mrs. Walter would keep her *widow's vow*, as I hear from a *busy body* she is in a way to get married a second time. It is a melancholy reflection that within a year she was *Miss in her teens*, had seen her *wedding day*, had been a *mourning bride* and *distressed mother*, yet still a *minor*. Her *Cymon* is not a *man of the world*, nor perhaps a fashionable lover, nor yet her first love, but it is the opinion of most people he must be a hypocrite if he is not a *good natured man*; report says he has a great many *rivals*, yet the *Chances* are in his favor as she has given her refusal to the *millor of Mansfield*, the *Farmer*, and *Spanish Friar*. I hope he will make a *tender husband* and that she will study the way to keep him.

Fame is a liar if the *inconstant* Mr. Gardiner is not going in the army; if he does, I hope he will not prove a poor soldier nor yet a Deserter, as that would be *the road to ruin*. His friends wished him to continue the *Village Lawyer* but he would *be a soldier*. I will tell you what, I have made a discovery that Mr. Mercer and Miss Harper (whom I shall distinguish by the appellation of *the constant couple*) will before *May day* enter the temple of Hymen (g). A few days ago Mr. Endless called upon us a *quarter of an hour before dinner*, and I assure you we had a great deal of agreeable *chit chat*; he told us he had taken a house in a small hamlet, 2538 miles from *Gretna Green*. The man is bewitched, I think, or the *deuce is in him*, for he declared an *old bachelor* was the most despicable character in nature, except a *Rover*, and as he had sown all his *wild oats* and had learnt *how to grow rich*, he was determined to make a *bold stroke for a wife*. He said his intended must be a *woman of sense*, and he should prefer an *heiress*, a *Lady of the Manor* or an *Irish widow*, provided she had a heavy *purse* (as she must have a large *fortune*); she must be without duplicity, a stranger to dissipation, by no means a *romp*, nor any ways like a *country madcap*, not subject to the *spleen*, nor too intimate with her *next door neighbour*. I told him 'twas *the Way of the World* for bachelors' wives to be the best managed, but I did not doubt but he would *ride a wife and have a wife*, but as he had given his opinion so freely, I was sure no *Country lasses* would be candidates for such a *suspicious husband* as I was sure he would prove.

Yesterday I wanted change for a *bank note*, and went to the bank for that purpose, and acting the *man of business* killed two birds with one stone; for I called on the *mock Doctor*, who told me Captain Weller had left Tonbridge Wells as he had received orders to play the *recruiting officer* in Somersetshire. He had ordered his *What-do-ye-call-it*, drummer, no, his *recruiting sergeant* to be at Ilchester immediately. I should think Mrs. Weller will like this way of life better than being in *camp*. I don't know any couple more likely to claim the *fitch of bacon* than this; he is a true Briton and I doubt not but he will acquire *Sprigs of Laurel*. Next Friday there is a *Committee* at Tonbridge; my Father will attend, when the *old maid* (I mean Ann) and myself have entered into a *confederacy* to play a trick on the *gentle shepherd*, alias the genteel youth. It would be only *tit for tat*, a little retaliation, for the other night he attempted to frighten us with an *apparition of the ghost* of an *upholsterer*, and tried to make us believe 'twas *the dead alive*. Now we intend dressing up some new *brooms* which we received from our *woodman* (as long ago as Lord Mayor's day) like nine sailors, with a golden pippen in each of their hands; their heads are to be made of phosphorus covered with a *chaplet*. These figures are to be linked together and fastened to the *panel* of the door by a *padlock*, and placed on the *first floor* of the *haunted tower* at the Castle. *Henry the second* on entering the room must move the the springs of the arms, when the apples will fly about his

(g) 1796, February. Married in London, Thomas Mercer, Esq., of Greentrees near Tonbridge, to Miss Polly Harpur, third daughter of the late Rev. Mr. Harpur of Tonbridge.

head and make him imagine he is attacked by Banditti. Now this will answer three purposes ; it will afford us *divertisement*, give us *revenge*, and prove the *touchstone* of his courage, which you, and we, know was suspected on May Day. We think *Nature will prevail* and that he will *run away* ; if he should, he must pull the strings of the chaplet, and then he will discover the phosphorus which will appear *Magic Fire*. As he is a *Cholerie man*, we know he will be in a violent *rage* and look as black as *Othello* if our plot succeeds ; but if by any mistake it should not, he will say, " Who is the dupe ? " and the laugh will be against us. But we will venture *neck or nothing* as we have two *strings to our bow* ; for we have another trick which I think better than this, but it requires great *contrivances* to execute it, which you will readily allow when I tell you 'tis an artificial *tempest*.

I shall expect to see you very smart at the *Jubilee* after your *journey to London*, and as we shall be a *jovial crew* I trust we shall be *all in good humour*. I shall try every *stratagem* to prevail on Boman to let us have a hop in the evening, as I should like of all things to dance the Highland Reel ; I know my Father's son-in-law will oppose my motion, but *every one has his fault*. My Grandmother used to say *in days of yore* that the first was generally a *spoilt child*, and it will be an agreeable surprise to me if Bomanett confutes her doctrine, as the *Lord of the Manor* thinks her quite a *prize*. When last you saw her, her complexion resembled a West Indian's, but she now promises to be the *Fair Maid of Kent*. John George [Children] is quite the *distressed manager*, as he has tried a *variety of arguments* (but without effect) to persuade us to have another *rehearsal*, but I will not come into his *schemes for love or money* ; but I know you are so full of *Life's vagaries* that I shall not wonder if he prevails on you to turn Actress again. But *as you like it*.

Who would have thought it ! The *fair Circassian*, I mean Harriett Austen, is on a visit to Emma Greenland. I am afraid you will think this *Hodge Podge much ado about nothing*, but I hope you will not prove a *Critic*, nor give the *author of this letter to the Devil on two sticks*, as that would be a *cruel gift* and make me a *fair penitent* ; but if I am a true *Prophetess* I shall find you *too clever by half* to criticise the *country wit* of your sincere friend

Polly."

We are fortunate in having a manuscript book containing a number of verses written by the three sisters, (known as " The three Graces ") ; the first is a Song, written and sung by Maria Woodgate about the year 1788, at the age of thirteen.

1

" As the Gods and the Goddesses, one idle Hour,
Were drinking of Nectar in Phœbus' Bower,
Jolly Bacchus arose and said t'was his intent
Shortly to visit the county of Kent.

2

Diana and Venus both did agree
With Bacchus to go that fine county to see,
And Apollo also gave his consent
With them to visit the county of Kent.

3

Bacchus straightway did call for his chair :
Apollo, Diana, and Venus the Fair
Ascended their cars ; and away they all went
To take a short view of the county of Kent.

4

They view'd the county with joy and delight,
And said they were never so pleased with a sight ;
And all of them said that if Jove would consent
They would often visit the county of Kent.

5

Before from the county they did ascend
 They all agreed their assistance to lend,
 For a message from Jove came which gave his consent
 That each should leave a Blessing on Kent.

6

Bacchus arose without any delay,
 He fill'd a Bumper and thus he did say :
 " May Hops, Hopes, and Happiness, Cheer and Content
 " For ever be found in the county of Kent."

7

Apollo rose next, and said t'was his desire
 That Health, Wealth, and Wisdom and Harmony
 Should always be found in their fullest extent,
 With Justice, to reign in the county of Kent.

8

Diana and Venus both rose and did say,
 " May beauty and Hunting in Kent hold their sway ;"
 So each filled a Glass, and Success then they drank
 To the Beauties and likewise the Harriers of Kent.

9

And having each a blessing bequeath'd,
 They from the county did take their leave.
 They ascended above ; may they never repent
 Of having thus bless'd the county of Kent.

The idea contained in this little poem is somewhat similar to that in Mr. Children's on page 328 ; the former however was written several years before the other, so Maria Woodgate cannot be convicted of plagiarism.

There is a riddle written by Anne Woodgate in 1789 :—

" My origin to Noah's Ark I trace,
 And there I did confine all Human Race.
 Since then more numerous am I grown
 And may be seen in every Town.
 I'm in all Palaces, nay in Cottages,
 In every Ship some Chair and Climages,
 And am so formed by Art for Mankind's use
 That heat and cold I easily produce.
 I'm various colors, Brown, White, and Black,
 And when I'm roughly used do make a crack.
 I often speak, but never had a Tongue,
 And what surprizes most am always Hung.
 I've but one eye which often is put out,
 For fear I should discover what you're about.
 But one thing more about me can be said,
 You should secure me when you go to bed."

The answer is Door.

" Having made Miss Allnutt an exceedingly good April fool the 1st of April 1796, when I left Mark Lane and went to East Street in the evening, I undeceived her by sending her the following lines :—

If I have a *sister* before the next year,
 Assuredly she must a *woman* appear,
 With a ring on her finger which she'll wear for life,
 For e'er she's *my sister* she will be a *wife*.
 A *Dutiful Daughter* I think she will be,
 An affectionate friend, and companion to me ;
 With discernment sufficient her senses to rule
 That she never may be made an *April fool*."

Miss Allnutt had her revenge and played Maria Woodgate a trick, which offended her much. She vowed retaliation. This came to Miss Allnutt's ears through Harriet Scoones, and produced a very submissive letter begging forgiveness, which was duly granted at the end of a letter of fierce invective, much too long for insertion here. That the whole affair was a joke may be easily perceived.

In August, 1796, being at South Park, Maria Woodgate intended to write her friend Miss Scoones, then in Lincolnshire, a newspaper, and in the Poet's corner insert the following stanzars ; but she changed her mind and did not send them.

Beloved Marianne farewell,
 My favorite friend adieu ;
 Some times bestow a thought on her
 Who oft will think of you.
 For tho' far distant, yet shall I
 With fond esteem attend ;
 My ready thoughts will wander off
 To seek my earliest friend.
 And while your young companions grieve
 That you from Kent are flown
 To visit Lincoln's fenny land
 To you before unknown ;
 Like you I now have left my Home,
 But not so far have strayed ;
 Fraternal love hath called me here ;
 The summons I've obeyed.
 For your regard for me is such
 Experience hath shewn,
 That all my Griefs and Joys you share
 And always make your own.
 And tho' the year will nearly waste
 E'er we shall meet again,
 Yet where it ages, yet no change
 Our friendship will sustain—
 No distance, time, no power nor Art
 Can change my Love for you,
 And I believe that still for me
 Your Friendship is as true.
 For 'twas decreed by fate, therefore
 What is can't be undone,
Mary and *Anne* united are
 And must be ever *One*."

The following lines, written by Anne Woodgate on 26th November, 1796, the day of Miss Scoones' return from Lincolnshire, shared the same fate :—

"Can'st thou a moment (my Dear Girl) retire,
 And leave those relatives around your fire,
 Who with delight, with joy, and heartfelt glee
 Elated, welcome home my friend in thee ;
 Can'st thou while each fond Parent's hearts rejoice ;
 And every Brother, every Sister's voice
 With fond affection welcomes your regress,
 And nought is seen but mirth and happiness ;
 Oh, can'st thou leave them and one thought devote
 To read the lines contained in this Note,
 From one who if she could herself would come

And with unfeign'd joy welcome you home?
 But, since tis doom'd I must not quit the Hill,
 My Pen must tell you all the joy I feel;
 Three days are wasted since I heard that you
 To Scampton would on Thursday bid adieu.
 "Ye Gods," what then I felt can I define,
 Such pleasures, Friendship, sure are only thine.
 To think on Sunday I again should see
 My young companion, favorite friend in thee!
 Was sure such happiness I cannot speak,
 For well we know that eloquence is weak,
 So I'll not strive my gladness to make known,
 For well I know you'll judge it by your own.
 Therefore this welcome only will I send,
 I'm still your most sincere & faithful friend.
 I will not, Mary, trespass on your time,
 Nor longer bore you with my doggerel Rhime,
 Not rich in the sublime and beautiful
 It may, to other eyes, seem vapid, dull;
 To you alone they will some joy impart
 Because they are the dictates of my Heart.
 And if you have that fond regard for me
 Such as I have, and always had, for thee;
 You will to-morrow, when your hand I press,
 Feel all that pleasure I would now express."

The next piece is an epitaph written by Anne Woodgate in December, 1796 on John Sales, who had been Huntsman to the family for six and thirty years. He died October, 1796. Notice the use of the different hunting terms.

"Who e'er shall *draw* this little piece of ground,
 Who's kennel'd underneath in hopes to scan,
 Know near this stone the names are to *be found*
 Of a poor *thoroughbred* good Honest Man.
 He ne'er *gave Tongue*, but when he *follow'd* Truth
 The *Fill of Honor* strict did he *pursue*;
 At *fault* he never was, for from his youth
 Conscience, and God, he always *had in view*.
 Full sixty years the world's *great field* he *ran*:
 At last his *strength gave ground* to slow decay.
 Fairly *run down* by age, disease and pain,
 (His Breath being *check'd*) his *spirit stole away*.
Staunch to the last, each relative and friend,
 Who came in at the death, have *earth'd him* here;
 And now alas! *Life's Chase* is at an end,
 No *trail* is left of him they loved so dear.
 When the *Dead Hollo* sounds from above
 He'll leave his *form* and join the Heavenly cry,
 (We humbly trust) *cheer'd* by his Maker's Love,
 And *Hunt* with praises *through* eternity."

Another specimen of Anne Woodgate's poetical genius is afforded by a clever valentine to her sister, dated 14th February, 1797:—

"M-y only love, in whom each grace I see,
 A-rise and tune thy heart to Love and me;
 R-aise every string that was unstrung before,
 I-'ll touch the chord that may my peace restore,
 A-pprove my Lay or I can sing no more—

W-ake then, my fair, and listen to my Song ;
 O-n wings of Hope I join the tuneful throng ;
 O-h ! if my tender strains (devoid of art)
 D-elight thine Ears, and Vibrate on thy Heart,
 G-ently wilt thou then calm thy fluttering Breast,
 A-nd hush, in softer notes, my soul to rest ;
 T-he happiest Pair, we'll warble through the Grove
 E-ver in Unison, with Peace and Love."

The Watch : A Song.

Written by Anne Woodgate on the Watch Tax, 1798.

Tune : Bow, wow, wow.

1
 My worthy Master ci-divant, with pity view my face,
 I am your gold repeating watch just now turn'd out of place—
 My wrongs have *wound* my Courage up so high that, nothing fearing,
 I'm come to *tick* my grievances, oh grant me partial hearing.
 Tick, Tick, Tick, Etc.

2
 Your Father and yourself I've served from my earliest youth,
 And so correct my ways have been I've ever told the truth—
 As you directed, so I *went*, of work I've had my portion,
 And ne'er *stood still*, but always kept the *grand Machine* in motion.
 Tick, Tick, Tick, Etc.

3
 Of such intrinsic worth am I that Dear I've ever been,
 And once you *valued* me because no better e'er was seen ;
 And I am sure my *principles* can safely bear inspection
 For your interest ever was the *Main Spring of my Actions*.
 Tick, Tick, Tick, Etc.

4
 But now alas ! so hard *my case* my Worth is disregarded ;
 The hand which oft has guided you is *run down* and discarded ;
 Your conduct you don't *regulate* by honor's sacred laws,
 Or surely you would ne'er dismiss a friend without a cause.
 Tick, Tick, Tick, Etc.

5
Wheel within wheel have been to *work* to force me from my station ;
 Lies have been *forged* to strike your heart and hurt my reputation ;
 And their *Machines* are so well *set* your favor for to *gain*
 That they will never *stop*, I fear, until they hang in *chains*.
 Tick, Tick, Tick, Etc.

6
 To be *job'd off* I cannot bear, nor thus to *lose* your favor,
 When I to serve you days & nights have done my best endeavour ;
 You'll be *chagrin'd*, my worthy Sir, 'tis that that does me nettle,
 For superseded I'm to be by one of *baser metal*.
 Tick, Tick, Tick, Etc.

7
 But yet your former kindness's are *stamp'd* upon my Heart,
 So deeply is your name engrav'd t'will ne'er from thence depart,
 That had I now Dame Fortune's *wheel*, I'd turn her treasure so
 That all your life you ever should like me on *diamonds go*.
 Tick, Tick, Tick, Etc.

8

If you *reflect* a moment you'll my grievances redress,
 The *seals* you will restore to me & all my woes suppress ;
 And as your father faithfully I serv'd in days of yore,
 Your children's children too I'll serve till *time* shall be no more.
 Tick, Tick, Etc.

SONG.

Written by Anne Woodgate, August, 1798.

1

"Scarce in my teens a love I had,
 A young School Boy was he ;
 The *Art of Love* he'd learnt so well
 He fain would *teach* it me.
 But his *tuition* I despised
 And played a *Truant's* part,
 I ne'er was in the *mood* to love,
 For *neuter* was my Heart.
 "False concord we in *Plurals* find,
 I've construed off," said I,
 "So no *conjunction* will I form
 But *Singular* I'll die
 Declaim no more, Your *theme's* a bore,
 Begone & cease your Pother ;
 For if you don't, depend upon't,
 I'll go and tell my Mother."

2

A lawyer's clerk came next to court,
 And long he urged his plea ;
 He swore he'd prove his actions were
 All from *chicanery* free.
 But I no *terms* with him cou'd keep,
 Nor with his *suit* was moved ;
 For when I tried my little Heart
 An *alibi* it proved.
 Of *civil* things I was the judge
 And I condemn'd his flame,
 And sentence quickly I pronounc'd,
 "Return from whence you came.
 By Cupid's *Laws* you've lost your cause
 Begone &c. &c."

3

A yeoman Trooper next advanced
 And oft saluted me :
 He dressed & by *St. George* he swore
 My eyes cut two and three ;
 But tho' he did assault my Heart,
 His *Charge* had no effect ;
 For all his arts I parried off
 For I knew "*left Protect*."
 I said "*Commanded* not I'll be
 So *halt*, no more intreat,
 Disperse your hopes, I'll be obey'd ;
 Your *Orders* are retreat.
 I ne'er will yield so quit the field
 File off & cease &c. &c."

4

Not long ago a Sailor came
 A *cruising* for my love,
 And soon the *Signal* made for *chace*
 Which I did not approve.
 But when I saw the *Union Flag*,
 I *tack'd about* so smart,
 My wavering fancy *struck*, alas !
 He *captured* my poor Heart.
 He swore I was his greatest *prize*
 And vow'd he'd love no other,
 And this *engagement* he declared
 He'd go and tell my Mother !
 But I said, "No, oh *steer* not so,
 Indeed I had much rather
 You'd *sail* away, without delay,
 And tell it to my *Father*."

The Ship. A Song.

by Anne Woodgate, December 1797, Tune : Derry Down.

1

Our Constitution pray have you not heard
 Oft times to a Dog and a Lion compared?
 But I have a simile better by far,
 For I say our State's a first rate Man of War.
Derry Down.

2

In the top mast, the fore mast, the Mizen mast we
 The King, Lords and Commons very plainly can see ;
 And the *stay* of the Ship, the *Anchor* I mean,
 Why that's Magna Charta, the finest e'er seen.
Derry Down.

3

Tho' this Ship is *engaged* with a *turbulent* foe,
 Where the high *Winds of Discord* most *fouly* do blow ;
 Tho' the *tide* is against her, she's little to fear
 For her *pilot* is wise & with caution will *steer*.
Derry Down.

4

While this *contest* doth rage & this tumult doth *roar*,
 We must all give consent for to *lighten her store* ;
 For till these *squalls* subside she'll heavily *sail*
 As her burden increases with every *gale*.
Derry Down.

5

Tho' the times are so *rough* & disputes run so high,
 The *Torrent* to *stem* every Art does she try ;
 But her *blustering* enemies will not agree
 On this Ocean of life for to have a *calm sea*.
Derry Down.

6

She's hoisted the *flag of truce* twice all in vain ;
 Her Foes have not answer'd the Signal again,
 For they are in hopes could they once come on *deck*
 This fine gallant ship wou'd soon be a *wreck*.
Derry Down.

7

But tho' *toss'd* about by the *Billows* of War,
The Rocks off *Point Paine* we behold from afar;
So she'll never *founder* but brave *Wind & Weather*
So long as her fine loyal crew hold together.

Derry Down.

8

Then cheer up, my Lads, for during this *storm*
We guard well our *decks* to protect her from harm;
Our guns are well manned, & her *firing* sha'nt cease
Till safely she's *moored* in the *Harbour of Peace*.

Derry Down.

In 1797, when Susan Allnutt was staying in Coopers Row, Maria Woodgate sent her this letter :—

“ Summer Hill, Saturday Evening, 1797.

Dear Susan, I think it is nearly an age
Since I sat down to write you a sociable page ;
But I hope from this time that we two shall contrive
Our dead correspondence again to revive.
For this I declare, and believe me 'tis true,
I always find pleasure in writing to you ;
So here I begin, and it is my design
To send a week's journal unto you in rhyme.
Last Sunday I did what all good Christians ought,
Attend at the Church, with devout look and thought,
Heard prayers from the Curate who audibly read,
All attention was I to each word that he said ;
For I think in his duty he shews great devotion,
And were I Archbishop he should have promotion.
I afterwards heard an uncommon good lecture,
'Twas preached by Papillon, our worthy young Rector.
The subject he chose was exactly the thing—
“ The providential escape of our excellent King
From democrat villains,” who ought to be shot,
And I wish from my soul that it may be their lot.
His Reverence discoursed with a judgment most rare,
Admonishing those who his auditors were
To aid and assist in the general cause,
To be true to their King, their Religion and Laws.
The service being ended we marched down the aisle,
But did not perceive that it rained all the while
Till we came to the porch, where the wind and the rain
A great many ladies from home did detain.
While we at the weather did grumble and fret,
And none of us wishing to get ourselves wet,
George de Passow came in, and like a good fellow,
Entreated us much to take his umbrella,
Which he did affirm was the best in the Town
To preserve from the rain apron, bonnet or gown.
But the clouds they grew blacker, the wind it rose higher,
We all cold as death wished much for a fire ;
And for fear we should make a grand Exhibition
We sent for the Coach with all expedition,
Which soon did arrive when we full of fun
Being seven in number stepped in one by one.
De Passow the Young, the Gay, and the Gallant

First presented his arm to *sweet Rosey* my Aunt,
 And seeing her seated his hand did extend
 For her sister Miss Ann, who next did ascend;
 My mother then followed, but with much ado,
 For she in her haste lost her clog and her shoe,
 Which occasioned us all to laugh and to grin
 Though we tried all we could to keep our smiles in.
 The Doctor [Knox] and I then next led the way,
Louisa and *Deb* behind did not stay,
 But soon took their places by me and Aunt Rose,
 And well crowded we were as you may suppose.
 We then thanked our Beau for his kindness and care,
 He wished us Good Morning with bow debonnaire,
 And, bidding adieu in a manner polite,
 Turned down the Church Lane and was soon lost to sight.
 Away drove the Coach, though the rain it did beat,
 And we never once stopped till we came to *Bank Street*
 When we left at their mansion house *Louisa* and *Nell*,
 Though we wanted them much to dine on the Hill.
 We then to the Castle bid John Killick (*h*) drive,
 And in less than five minutes we there did arrive,
 Where I saw Billie Boman and Anna his wife,
 Who I am sure never looked half so well in her life.
 And finding her so, we bade her adieu
 And John home did drive like another Jehu.
 Our repast being ended, we each gave a friend,
 And secondly drank that the war might soon end,
 For I think that at present we are sad in condition,
 But I hold my tongue, being no politician.
 My Father he read us a sermon till nine,
 When the supper came in, a nice mutton chine,
 Which, having demolished, we each took a light
 And curtsying low wished each other good night.
 I soon was unrobed and soon fell asleep
 But my dream till I see *you* a secret I'll keep.
 When I rose in the morning it was nearly nine,
 The walking was good as the day it was fine;
 I paraded the garden without hat or cloak,
 For I think catching cold is all a mere joke,
 And breakfast being over I sat down to stitch
 A collar or wristband, but I forget which;
 And though it is strange yet I swear it is true,
 I never once moved till the clock had gone two.
 Will Eldridge & Boman at three came to dine
 And stayed till they had each drunk a bottle of wine;
 For you very well know they are two of that sort
 Who are never so happy as when they're near *Port*.
 Tuesday succeeded but nothing new brought
 And we all as usual eat, drank, laughed, and thought,
 Till evening arrived, when as we did chat
 Of the Times and of Politics, this thing and that,
 We heard the bell ring, we looked at each other,
 The door opened wide and in came—your Brother.
 Bows over and so forth we first did enquire

(h) John Killick was the Summerhill coachman. His son was afterwards coachman to Dr. Knox and eventually became the School porter, a position that he occupied for many years.

Of the health of our sister & Dicky the Squire,
 Of Uncles, of Aunts, and of Susan the Belle,
 And were all very glad to hear they were well.
 Supper appeared, and to eat we began,
 We well played our parts, except sister Nan
 Who is grown so *excessive* affected of late
 That not one bit of supper will she ever eat.
 Our spirits were good and mirth did abound
 And laughter and joke went merrily round;
 But the clock striking twelve soon stopped our career
 And it sent us to bed with a *flea* in our ear.
 The next day for dinner we dressed a nice turbot
 Which we think was a present from Mr. Fitzherbert,
 And being a large one we sent over night
 Our Mercury Harry our friends to invite;
 But of twelve that were asked there were only five came,
 And who those five were I am going to name.
 John Eldridge, Will Muggridge, the Pop, and the King,
 A Lady—who was it?—why, *Admiral Bing*.
 That the fish was a good one I am sure you will own
 When I tell you 'twas literally picked to the bone.
 We ladies, retiring, to the Drawing room went,
 And there a long time in *scandal* we spent;
 For we waited for tea, three hours at least,
 Which is always the case at a *Summer Hill* feast.
 At length the Beaux came in and were all full of glee
 And merry we were while we were at tea.
 The cards being called for, John Eldridge (*Arch Wag*)
 Protested that he could play no game but Brag.
 To please the old Cogger that game was proposed,
 The motion soon carried, being more ayes than noes.
 The minority were, the Pop and my Mother,
 The Cowardly Admiral and likewise your Brother.
 The four then accordingly sat down to whist,
 And we made such a noise that we got ourselves hissed.
 But meaning no harm, and being light hearted,
 We played, laughed, and sang till twelve when we parted.
 Next morning John Allnutt did all of us grieve
 By saying that he was obliged to take leave,
 For he learnt by a letter his house had been robbed,
 Which we all exclaimed was a terrible job.
 We saw him depart, when Nan and my Mother
 Set sail in the Coach to dine with my Brother.
 I begged my excuses to Anna they'd make,
 For I was invited but had the face-ache,
 And the pain that I felt for the space of an hour
 I cannot describe as 'tis out of my power.
 They stayed at the Castle till 'twas very late
 So I and my Father were left Tête-a-tête,
 For Harry was gone in pursuit of a Pheasant
 Which he wished very much to send as a present
 To a certain young lady who wished him success,
 But who 'tis I mean I'll leave you to guess;
 For I now must conclude and rhyming give o'er
now as well.....more (*illegible*)
 That my friend Virticordia may ever be blest,
 Be loved by her friends and by them be *caressed*,

And that nothing may happen to *fidget* or *fret* her
I am sure is the wish of her *Dear Margarett*.

Now if ever I find that my Susan does show
These lines of her friend to Belle or to Beau,
By all that is sacred I swear for her pains
I'll cudgel her first and then blow out her brains."

The reply is also in verse :—

"Coopers Row, Dec. 10 [1797]

Thanks twenty times over, my dear Margarett,
And twenty times more for your excellent letter.
Were I in the habit of writing in rhyme,
I would journalize too for a month at a time,
For a fortnight, for more, all the time I have spent
Since I left the agreeable County of Kent;
Or rather left Tonbridge, that seat of delight,
When each minute was pleasure from morning to night.

You know how I left you, more dead than alive,
But they needs must go whom the D——I will drive,
And though soon out of sight, not so soon out of mind,
For I could not help thinking on those left behind.
But away with these sorrows which must not be discussed,
For if destined to Eltham, to Eltham we must.
There suppose me at dinner, my Grandmother by,
With a heart full of woe but a smile in my eye.
We had mutton at top but the bottom was veal,
Pickled pork on one side, the other side teal,
With a few odds and ends just to make up the table,
Whatever the poor little village was able.

When the dinner was over the tea was not missed,
And the card table next with a rubber at whist,
Where we grumbled and growled at each other's bad play,
While we all were determined to have our own way.
Supper followed soon after the Clock had struck ten,
And this was indeed but the dinner again;
Though the veal it was minced and the mutton was hashed,
And the pork and the teal accidentally clashed,
For the man as he entered the dining room stumbled,
And the teal and the pork in one platter were jumbled.
But these are misfortunes the righteous must bear,
So we laughed at the lout and put up with the fare;
As late hours affect both the head and the heart,
Whenever the clock strikes eleven we part.

In the morning I woke, and perhaps with the lark,
For I just could discover it was not quite dark;
But knowing the house did not breakfast till ten,
I quietly took to my sleeping again,
And for almost an hour (I'm in ecstasy still)
I dreamt I was yet with my friends at the Hill,
Encircled with Deborah, Nell, and Maria,
And a little snug party of friends round the fire,
When we joked with each other and laughed at the turn,
And quizzed those we hated, again and again.
But while on the subject that's nearest at heart,
Let me thank George de Passow for playing a part
So polite and so kind: What a good-natured fellow!
If I could not get him, why I would get his umbrella.

But my dream, like a bubble, burst over my head,
 And left me far, far from Maria, in bed.
 How cruel to dream or how cruel to wake,
 But again to my journal, and breakfast we'll take.
 With a penny French roll and a dish of bohea
 We satisfy nature and talk o'er our tea,
 Till we have finished the third or fourth bason or cup
 Then the things are removed and the tea-chest locked up.
 And now that I've told you the business of one day,
 All the rest are the same, Thursday, Friday, or Monday.
 For what in a village so dull can we find,
 To feed with variety body or mind?

So no more then of Eltham, no, no, no, no, no
 But we'll haste to that sweet little spot, Cooper's Row ;
 And thanks to good Thomas, he came in his chair
 And Killick like, Jehu like, drove me up there.
 With what rapturous pleasure I entered the *hall*,
 Though both elbows I broke against both sides the wall,
 And so great was my pain and so loud did I bellow
 That John, who was playing the violincello
 On his Axminster Carpet, that deadener of sound,
 Was surprised at my shrieks and his music was drowned ;
 But I have not so long been acquainted with you
 Not to know how to bear a misfortune or two ;
 So Philosophy clapped on my elbow a plaster,
 And I soon was recovered from such a disaster.

Oh, could I describe what a house ! On my soul
 It is not in language to speak of the whole ;
 Such sumptuous apartments, for show or for use,
 Such a drawing room furnished in manner profuse,
 Such a dining room too (how I wish you were in 't
 With a Polypheme eye somewhat given to squint !)
 In short all is elegance, neatness & taste,
 Not a chair or a stool or a table misplaced.
 Indeed when I looked in the case for the fiddle,
 One of Thomas' pistols dropt out of the middle ;
 But when I bade George take his holsters away,
 The fiddle was found that was lost t'other day ;
 So though each was not quite in its own proper sphere,
 The one was forthcoming, the other was near.
 What breakfasts ! What dinners ! What suppers ! What beaux !
 Scarce a moment is left us for nature's repose.
 But alas ! Who can stand such expense of the purse,
 While the charges for washing become worse and worse ?
 No starch to be bought, and with soap at such price,
 'Tis impossible ever again to look nice.
 Then adieu, muslin draper, ... (*illegible*)
 So I popped to the mercer's and bought a silk gown
 As sombre as any old maiden's in town,
 Though dark and light blue, trimmed with white, is divine
 And accordingly that I have fixed on for mine ;
 And should you now eye me without or within
 About me you'll find nothing white but my skin ;
 And that indeed shews as if starch was but rare,
 Or rather like linen laid by from the air.
 Yet when I am in my new bonnet and gown,
 I am all black and blue from the foot to the crown.

I shall not describe all the plays I have seen,
 Or descant on the parties wherever I've been,
 For fear you should grieve at your dull situation,
 And lament you were born in *so humble* a station.
 Then no more of these joys which you must not partake,
 I'll be silent about them for Margaret's sake.
 But debarred of such tattle, of what can I talk,
 Say how often I ride or how often I walk,
 What fashion is rife or what folly prevails,
 How John blows his nose or how Tom bites his nails?
 Little pleased with such news, you'd be glad when I'd done,
 And nominate folly what I may call fun.
 Then no more, but to say that I never have shown
 Your verses to anyone's eye but your own:
 So I fear not your cudgel, and as for my brains
 Blow them out if you will, and they're yours for your pains.
 But you need not boast much of the bargain you've got,
 They'll be not worth the value of powder and shot.
 Yet before I am brained, in my very best manner,
 Let me sign myself yours, and your loving, Susanna.
 And my surname I'd add but I fear to do wrong,
 For I know not to which sort of *nutt* I belong,
 Whether Hickory, Filbert, or Hazel, or *Walnut*
 But I know that I am faithfully yours, Susan Allnutt.

In April, 1799, Ozias Humphry writes from London to his brother at Seal, "I am this moment returned from Earl Camden, to whom I have made a statement and full explanation of my India concerns. . . . I met Will: Woodgate of the Castle at Lord Camden's and am to go with him to the Exhibition on Thursday (2)."

In 1800 Stephen Woodgate had left Tonbridge and gone up to Trinity College, Oxford; a number of letters written to him there have been preserved, and afford a good insight into the daily life at Summerhill. The chief correspondent was Maria Woodgate, who signs herself sometimes "Benbow" or "Ben" (probably because she too, like her brother "Bowman," belonged to the Kentish Bowmen). She and her family had a curious habit of calling people by nicknames, which makes it impossible to understand some of the allusions.

The first letter is as follows:—

" Summer Hill, Sunday Evening,
 [May 26, 1800].

My dear Stephen,

Lest you should think that the late rains have carried us quite away and that we have shared the fate of the butcher that killed the Derby Ram, that is "been swallow'd up in the flood," be it known to you that all your relatives in and about Tonbridge, high and low, rich and poor, young and old, one with another are at this time and on this day, May the twenty sixth in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and — (I mean eighteen hundred) sound and free from splint shaven or windgall, which good piece of News no doubt will create in you a most wonderfull appetite, therefore woe unto the toast and muffins that are serv'd up to your table this morning.

I have not a doubt in my own mind but what the affair between the Christian name of Hotspur and the fifth Month in the Year is totally at an end, as he has not been to Hadlow once since I wrote last; the report seems to have died away, therefore exit Harry and Miss May, and enter Miss Maria Otway who was married on Monday

(i) In June, 1799, we learn that, "On Friday last, the 7th, a servant belonging to Major Woodgate of Tonbridge was found dead in his bed, and from his having neglected to take off his neckcloth or unbutton his collar, it is supposed he was suffocated."

by the Revd. & learn'd Bishop of Oxford to a Captain Foster, in the same Regiment as John Whipping and Sam Nicholl. He is several years younger than the lady and I believe cannot boast much of the ready Rhino, but *is a very good kind of man I daresay, a good kind of creature as ever lived.* Your Aunts have been to London for a week and return'd last night, Aunt Sally delighted with her *highcockalorum* and really looks immensely handsome. They agree with me in thinking Pizarro the most excellent of Plays; they saw the same entertainment that we did viz., "Of age to-morrow." I should think that anybody is equal to the character of Alonzo; as for Charles Kemble, he is in my opinion the poorest creature on the stage, and how you can admire him is to me astonishing. He always puts me in mind of *water gruel*, so very insipid. I hear there is a remarkable fine picture of Rollos restoring the child in the Exhibition this year; of course you will see it on your return.

We expect a very good ball on Monday se'nnight. Neither my father nor Mr. Mercer will be there as they are going to Layton to buy some horses for the young *farmer*; they set off on Witsun Monday. I hope your father will consult Dr. Milman or Harvey in his way to or from Northampton, for that is the fair they are going to and not Layton. The Young General at the Castle has been extremely bad indeed with the small Pox; he had between two and three hundred in his face. However, he is now in a very fair way. Boman went to Town yesterday to present his address to his Majesty on his late escape and I believe all Kentish Volunteers' address on the same occasion. Mrs. Mercer safe in the *straw* yesterday with a daughter, to the great joy of that noble and ancient family. John and Harry desire their most respectful compliments and beg leave to inform you *thro'* me that they have inrolled your name in the Postern Heath Society, and that your presence is most ardently wish'd for by that venerable and patriotic body. The Skinners came down on Tuesday. Poor Mrs. Knox met with a very sad accident yesterday; in coming down stairs she was seized with a violent fit of the cramp and fell down several steps, and sprain'd her ankle so very much that Mr. Lutterell thinks it will be some time before she can leave her room. Poor old—[?] death is now confirmed by a letter from Mr. England to the Parish officers at Tudley. I hope *thick as Nitchell* alias Mitchell will not have the living. I have no patience with my *first suitor* and shall look very *cold* when I see him, for I think his behaviour to you has been infamous. Both the little girls at South Park are with us, Fanny being in London with Uncle John. I have the honor to remain, your most contemptible

'Ria Benbow.'

That month, four days previously, there had been an influential meeting at the Star Inn, Rochester, under the chairmanship of the Rev. Richard Warde, to oppose the bill then depending in Parliament "suspending until 1st Jan. 1801 the duties on hops imported into Great Britain, and granting other duties in lieu thereof." The Chairman subscribed £10, Lord Camden, Lord Darnley, Lord Sondes, Sir W. Geary and Sir E. Knatchbull subscribed £21 each. William Woodgate of Summerhill, Thomas Mercer of Green Trees and Stephen Amhurst gave £20 each; W. F. Woodgate £10; Charles Polhill £5, and a few others subscribed varying sums. A committee, including W. F. Woodgate, was formed to promote the opposition.

In January, 1803, a numerous meeting of landowners and hop-planters was held at the Bell Inn, Maidstone, to obtain repeal of the late additional duties on hops. A committee was formed, consisting of Lord Romney, Earl of Thanet, W. F. Woodgate, T. Mercer, and some others.

In 1794, William Woodgate, Lord Camden, Sir John Shaw, Henry Streatfeild, George Children, and some others brought about the formation of a Society for the encouragement of Agriculture in Kent; at that time the Canterbury Society was the only one. William Woodgate invariably came forward upon such occasions.

Here be it mentioned that in November, 1800, William Woodgate purchased of the trustees for sale under the will of John Broadhurst of Duffield, Derby, for

£1,782 the tithes of hay, corn, grain and other tithes on his lands in Southborough Ward, Broombridge Ward and the Great Park of Southfrith in the respective occupations of himself, W. F. Woodgate, Jeffrey Burling, Moon, John Porter, William Playfoot (late Thomas Hartrup), Henry King, Thomas Hammond, Stephen Wigmore, George Neale, Stephen Dickenson, Samuel Waite, and James Wooley. Also the tithes on Brook farm, the property of John Squires of King's Langley, occupied by William Woodgate; also lands of Halsey, lands called Broome Mill, and lands of Goodwyn, Richard Gower, and Thomas Hartrup. These tithes were formerly part of the rectory or parsonage of Tonbridge.

The next is but a short note from the Major, sealed with the Squirrel and the Major's initials. Sale and Neild were two leading musicians of the day, Sale especially; he often resorted to Tonbridge and Summerhill. The Woodgates were all passionately devoted to music.

“ Sunday, June 16, 1800.

Dear Stephen,

All your friends in this Part of the country are well except your Father, who is confined with a complete fit of the gout. By all means attend the whole of the music next week, particularly the Business for Calcott's Degree, as I understand from Sale & Neild that it is a prodigiously fine Composition. You will be charmed with Elliott. I have sent all the Papers. You shall have a long letter from me before the end of the week. Mrs. Larking of Peckham died this afternoon.

W. F. Woodgate.”

The next letter contains an interesting account of the entertainment of the Tonbridge Troop, who were all invited to dine at Summerhill, eighty in number.

“ Summer Hill, Sunday Evening,
17th June, 1800.

My dear Stephen,

Harry has told me that he has intended tipping you a line for the last fortnight, which is the reason I have not wrote before, but as I see there is no sign of his performing his promise I think I may as well answer his letter for him. Your father has been confined to his bed since Monday with a most violent attack of the gout; the pain he has suffered has been amazing but I think the disorder is now upon *old Robin* alias upon the turn, for the pain has abated considerably since three o'clock and I am very much in hopes that he will have a good night. It happened particularly unlucky that he should have the gout just at this time, for on Friday the troop dined here; but my Father was so bad that he could not head his own table but lay in state in his *white satten* bed and saw his friends there. There were eighty brave yeomen set down to table and by what I can understand they were all vast merry and drank to their next *jollification*. There has been a sad *rumpus* at South Park; Mr. Allnutt has found out that in his absence the servants acted high life below stairs, and were not contented with giving their guests dinner tea and supper, but extended their invitation even to *beds*. Having made this discovery the Squire is determined to make an example of them and has given warning to the whole crew, Shoebridge, Bob, Richard and the few maids, so that next week we will have quite a new household. I have no news to tell you but of the melancholy kind; poor Mary Lewin is as bad as bad can be, Anna expects to hear of her death every day. Mrs. Delves has been given over for the last fortnight, and I am afraid before this the scene is closed. Mrs. William Larkin was declared by Dr. Smith yesterday to be past hope and poor Ann Eyles and Mrs. John George remain in as bad a state as when I wrote last. I am now pretty sure that the affair is all off between Harry and Miss May [of Hadlow Castle]; there is a mystery in the whole proceeding that I cannot understand; I am very sorry for it for I think it would have been a very good match on both *sides the gutter*. You cannot imagine how much Spring Grove is improved within these three weeks; I think for the size of it there cannot possibly be a prettier place. The noble Captain has taken a house near Maidstone where he and his

family are gone. I hear Mr. Andrews is certainly to leave Tonbridge very soon, having engaged himself to Hadlow. John Whitrets I understand succeeds him here, so I have taken it into my wise head that we shall soon have a wedding. I am afraid he is too great a sportsman to be long at Tonbridge without giving offence to some of the neighbours. We have heard that old Sulleston is dead, do you know if it is true? Harry desires I would say that there is to be a grand match of cricket on Thursday between the Postern club and Peckham; John George is become a member of the former society. Harry knows he has been extremely rude in not answering your letter, but really he has been so over head and ears in business (not to say a word about love) that he has not had time; he therefore hopes you will excuse it. I suppose we shall soon hear of your coming home, the sooner the better says

Benbow."

About the same time the Troop were entertained to dinner at Ferox Hall, in the laundry, where private theatricals were from time to time held. In a prologue to *My Grandmother*, which was acted there not long afterwards, Mr. Children says:—

"The building's old, but never mind the floor,
'Tis not long since a troop of horse it bore—
The *men* I mean (their chargers stayed below)
But they were men of goodly port and show;
Stout yeomanry, of weight and substance ample.
Behold their noble Captain for a sample."

The Captain, of course, was Major Woodgate, a man of fine physique.

At the dinner Mr. Children recited a lengthy poem of his own composition headed *An address to the Volunteer Troops of Yeoman Cavalry, who have nobly stood forward in defence of their King and Country*, from which we will quote a few lines:—

"Right welcome, my friends, most happy to meet ye,
From Captain to trumpeter warmly I greet ye.
Shall Britain in order and government's cause
Stand forth, and a Britain not speak his applause?
Shall Kent still maintain her old honour in story,
And a man of Kent not in his country men glory?
Shall Tonbridge men wield in this contest their sabres,
And shall not a Tonbridge man hail his brave neighbours?
Yes, hail to the virtue, the spirit, the sense,
Which calls Britons forth in their country's defence,
Which the breasts of our gentry and yeomanry warm
In support of our blest constitution to arm"..... &c.

There is an account in the *Kentish Gazette* of October, 1803, of the training of the West Kent Regiment of Yeomanry, commanded by Lord Camden. The men entered the town in marching order, deposited their standards with the Colonel, received their billets, and retired to their respective quarters. "In the evening the Captains of troops visited the stables and quarters of the men to see that every accommodation they were entitled to was afforded them, and every succeeding evening this duty was performed by a subaltern officer from each Troop. At six the next morning the trumpets sounded for feeding the horses, and at eight after parading in the High Street the troops were marched to Coxheath, where they went through their evolutions in a manner that reflected much credit upon their steadiness and attention. On Friday the Lord Lieutenant reviewed the Regiment at Coxheath, when his Lordship was pleased to express his entire approbation of their appearance, and the pride and satisfaction he felt in being connected with the Men of Kent, from whose exertions if they should, and the probability was they soon would, be called upon to act, he could not but anticipate the most favourable consequences.

After the review the officers of the regiment were sumptuously entertained by the Noble Earl at the Mote, besides whom there were present General Sir David Dundas, the Earl of Chatham, Mr. Pitt, the Hon: Mr. Stanhope, Col. Whitworth and Col. Hay, of the Dépôt, from whose able advice and assistance the regiment had derived considerable benefit. On Saturday Gen. Dundas reviewed the regiment. After passing in order before the General, the troops went through the sword exercise and their several evolutions with a steadiness, notwithstanding the extreme unfavourableness of the day, that would not have disgraced regular troops. Gen. Dundas, whose judgment is universally acknowledged, and who is not we believe in the habit of paying undeserved compliments, was pleased in returning his thanks to Lord Camden to observe that the troops had performed beyond his expectations, that they were as perfect as the nature of their establishment could admit of, and fit for service.

"The troops, after receiving the thanks of their respective Commanders, were then dismissed upon the heath, and the officers returned to Maidstone, where they gave an excellent dinner at the Bell to the Earl of Romney, the Earl of Chatham, and the several other noble and honourable personages who were at the Mote the preceding day, with the addition of Lord Amherst and the Mayor of Maidstone, to whose exertions the troops were much indebted for their comfort in quarters. We cannot conclude this account, so gratifying to the feelings as well of those engaged as of the Men of Kent in general, without observing that, independent of the conduct of the men in the field, nothing could exceed their order and regularity in quarters; the greater part of them opulent yeomen, retiring after the exercise of the day to their stables, and the care of their horses, with as much promptitude and attention as if they had been under the control of martial law. With men actuated by spirit and zeal like this, led on by men of the spirit and gallantry of their field officers, Earls Camden and Darnley and Major Woodgate, and by their worthy and active representative Sir William Geary, and other highly respectable gentlemen commanding the several troops of the regiment, who can doubt the result, and who would not rather bury himself under the ruins of his own mansion than suffer one of the Coriscan banditti to contaminate the threshold of his door?"

"Summerhill, Sunday morning,
[Nov. 1800].

My dear Stephen,

One says he cannot write because he is troubled with *Mrs. Lewin's* complaint, another pleads a violent head ache as an excuse, a third is excessive sick and a fourth mortal cross, therefore it rests with me to tell you that Summerhill stands exactly in the same place as you left it & that Tonbridge Church has not advanced one inch from its former situation, all which news I am sure will rejoice the cockles of your little heart to hear.

You executed the commissions entirely to all our satisfactions. Whether Mrs. Weatherall was the principal in the affair remains to be told; I strongly suspect she was. We had some rare jokes with Uncle Squack after you left us, not to say a word of my dressing myself up & passing for Mrs. Hassel for a whole evening & taking him in a second time as Harry's waiting maid at Spring Grove, all of which was famous fun for the whole crew. He is as good a *kind of creature as ever lived*, I have no doubt, yet without a compliment we were all very consolable when he made his bow. Your father has been complaining of a pain in his side for several days past, but a good days sport of Shooting has wrought a wonderful cure & he is now quite bobbish. Your Mother has had a very bad cold ever since you left us but I think upon the whole she is better. Your dearly beloved Beauty is in a state of convalescence & is declared by the family to be out of danger: this intelligence I am sure will give you an additional appetite for your breakfast. The rest of your Establishment as far as I can understand are all as well as can be expected.

By what I can understand from Mr. West you were not over & above delighted with "*Wilmore Castle*": if I may be allowed to be a judge of the Plot by the account

in the newspaper, it is a very Stupid thing, almost as bad as "Of Age to-morrow." All the songs I think are bordering upon "George Kutte."

How very lucky it was that you should happen to fall in with *poor Mary*; its really *Sister Woodward*, was *wonderful*. Mr. says her appearance was rather gipsish & that her was very forked I hear. I hear you brisk but you shall not have my consent: she is really so very silly, as good a kind of creature as ever lived I daresay, but unfortunate in her upper Story. Our assembly on Monday sennight is to draw all the world to Tonbridge. I hear of nothing but beds being bespoke & Partners engaged. I am to be taken by the hand by Master Head, alias Mr. Gardiner; he dined here to-day with Mr. Wills and I swore sister. I think him a good *conversable man*. Look at your hand.

My father called upon Mrs. Walter & her fair daughters yesterday & gives such a favourable account of them that we intend to go in form to-morrow. He says he likes your intended, the youngest, best. I find they are ten thousand pounders therefore I advise you to brisk about & perk up, and who knows but you may carry off one of the heiresses? Your father sent off Vintner the other day with a *flea in his ear* for coming too late to his work; he this morning engaged Daniel at Mrs. Sclater's which we are all extremely glad of, as I have the highest opinion of him. He is to come as soon as my Aunt can meet with a man to suit her. Tom Relph is so extremely ill that he cannot live a week. On Tuesday we dined at Southpark. An invitation came for you which I shall keep till I see you. As you have been gone such a short time you cannot expect much news; my next will I hope be more worth the postage. We all unite in love & so forth. Believe me, your most obedient faithful sincere and beautiful humble servant, Mr. Children's game keeper's Christian name added to a guinea, alias Ben Bow."

The next letter is written from Hastings where Anne Woodgate was staying with the Rideouts; it will be remembered that after the death of his first wife (Frances Woodgate) Mr. Rideout married Mrs. Nicoll of Court Lodge. The Rideouts lived at Court Lodge for many years, and often stayed at Summerhill. Sam Nicoll was a stepson, a young Lieutenant who had been lately taken prisoner by the French.

"Hastings, Wednesday Mornng.,
November 27, 1800.

My dear Stephen,

I think myself highly honor'd by your letter which I received a few days before I left the Hill & which I certainly shou'd have answered *long ago*, but waited till I arrived at this place. I have been *taken in*, for when I engaged to spend a fortnight with Mrs. Rideout I had not the smallest idea that she was going from Mountfield, but here we are all in the House that Boman had, & except ourselves there is not one *Foreigner* here. I suppose you leave Oxford in the first week in the next month, & I hope to return to the Hill the week after. Sam has been returned about ten days. Poor fellow, he has been very unfortunate, for he was taken by the French in his passage home, & when he was captured he was so bad with *Mrs. Lewin* that he was confined to his Bed, & after three days Captivity he was sent home on a Cartel but so very ill that they thought he would die. He tarried at Portsmouth a fortnight, & tho he is now much better yet they are very apprehensive of a Relapse. As soon as he is well enough he will join his Regt. which is at Gosport. I assure you he is a very pleasant young Man, but his *Mouth swallows* up all his *Beauty*. Maria's time for writing I think is on Sunday next, therefore mine comes as a *way* piece. I have not heard from *Benbow* since I left home, so cannot tell you any *domestick* affairs that have occur'd since last Monday (which was the day I left home). Hector Relph is dead; I did not hear how he had left his affairs but it was *generally* believed that he had made a pile. Maria's *Gayzate* was full of matter; she did not read it all to me, but what I did hear I highly approved. Did she tell you that there was most *prodigious Quizzing* at the Ball? You never heard anything like it in all your life. I did not speak to your *Intended*, but from their *appearance* I shall not give you my *Consent* nor will John, but I think I like Harry's Choice *very well*. If you

can spare ten minutes next week to explain yourself, I shall be obliged to you ; direct to me here at K. R. Hastings. Sir Wm. Ashburnham, the world says, is going to be married : he call'd here yesterday, & from his *conversation, manners & appearance* I think with the *Multitude*. She is a young lass of 22 with as many thousands. I do not believe *all* this, because if it was true she would not fancy *January*. I sincerely Condole with you on the loss of *Beauty*. I assure you she was very properly attended to & the Boys said, if she had been their dog, they shou'd have killed her several Days before she died, but as you was absent they chose she shou'd die a Natural death. Next Monday is fix'd for Jewhurst's benefit, five shillings a ticket & eveng *work*. Sale and Neild are to be down on Sunday. I must own, I shou'd like to have Fortunatus's *cap* for that night. I have nothing more to tell you worth hearing so conclude you will take the will for the deed, & believe me, your afft sister, A.W.

Sam tells me of a very good song that will suit you : it is call'd The Quaker & begins " My name is Obadiah."

This letter is supplemented by the next, being Maria Woodgate's promised " Gayzate " of Sunday,

" Summerhill, Sunday Evening,
Nov. 30th, [1800].

" Most potent, grave and revd. Stephen, my very worthy and approved good brother," you are a very good kind of creature I am free to confess ; I think the same of myself and yet all pipe and no dance will never do for your amiable sister Maria. Pray, good Sir, why am I so *neglected* ? I am the only one in the family who will *conndescend* to write to you, and yet am the only one whom you do not direct your delectable epistles to. Fie, Mr. Stephen, you may write to Harry as often as you please, but I will be hanged if you ever receive an answer. I am sure you will be extremely sorry to hear Miss Scoones is so extremely ill that Doctor Budd thinks there is very little chance of her life ; what renders her illness the more distressing is that she is on a visit to Dr. Wilgress' family at Eltham ; her complaint is a one and twenty day fever which I understand nine times out of ten proves fatal. I think altogether it is a most unfortunate and melancholy affair. Nan left us for Court Lodge on Thursday se'nnight ; the Rideouts go to Hastings on Monday for four months ; of course Nan goes in their *train*, and who knows perhaps *change of air* may be of *service* to her ? There is a report here that she has two lovers, *Philip* and *Peter*, alias the *dear* Mr. Moneypenny and the *sweet* Mr. Noel. Now if you would give her a roundabout hint in your letters (if you mean to write to her), I think it would be a good joke, but dress it up so well that she may not suspect Me as the informer. You cannot imagine what a foolish dance you led them all (myself excepted) about your *head* and your *gardiner*. I pretended to be quite ignorant as to your meaning but was ready to bite my lips to hear them all guessing as to what you could possibly mean ; pray don't explain yourself but say something more about it in your next. Fanny and the children staid with us the whole of last week ; I had a monstrous run of ill luck the whole time they were here, came off loser about two guineas ; sad, very sad, was it not ? You must not on any account consider Miss Walter your *intended*, it really will not do at all. She is all goodness I make no doubt, but I am sure when you see her you will say that you *cannot deal*. You have often heard of a Death's head on a Mop stick, but think of a Death's head on a *mill post* and your amiable *intended* is before you. Ann Eyles gets better with respect to her sight every day ; I have lately had letters from her and it would astonish you to see how well she both writes and indites. Young Eyles is going to the West Indies for change of air, the physician declaring him to be in a rapid decline. I daresay he will meet with the fate all old maids' lovers do, die over sea.

Jewhurst's benefit is to-morrow night. Sale, Smart and *Sweet Ann* Rye come down to hold forth. I don't much expect a full meeting as Jewhurst is not at all a favorite, and I am confident many people will stay away on purpose to mortify him. I will

give you some account of it in my next. Some desperate sordid minded men broke into Mr. Town's yard the other night and killed two of his horses. He and his friends have offered a hundred pounds reward for the apprehension of the villains. I think you had for the future better not write till after you have recd my letters, as then I may be certain that they arrived safe at the place of their destination. I think it is very odd that you have not been called on by Little Jack; were I you I certainly should not pay him the first visit—a little whipper snapper, I have no patience with him. Mr. Nokes died this morning. Tom Relph died the day after I wrote. I understand he has not mentioned Mr. or Mrs. Cave (*k*) in his will. I forgot to tell you in my last that Boman is in possession of Relph's farm. Both the Gips are Mrs. Lewin and *excessive sick*. I have no news whatever to tell you and hope my next will be better worth the postage. Poor Beauty was buried with funeral honors in Love Lane. Most noble Stephen, yours affectly

M. W."

We learn further particulars of the Concert from the Major, who wrote a few days later. His concluding advice to his brother is excellent; it reminds us however, of the misfortunes that were in store for himself.

"Thursday, Decr 4th, 1800.

Dr Stephen,

I have very little news to tell you, ergo you will think my Letter stupid. I rather think the Girls give you a Gazette extraordinary once a fortnight. We had a very good concert here on Monday night, tho but thinly attended, but there was money collected sufficient to pay Sale, Page & Mr. Smart. To-morrow we are going a large Party to coursing at Summerhill—Simmons & Will Harvey &c. and plenty of Hares. We caught six at the Hutches last night and all lie well to be coursed. I send you all the Maids love Papers. I cannot shoot at all; I miss'd 13 fair shots at Cock Pheasants a few days ago at Morlands, & this Morning with Shuffler and Tatler &c. found a Hare in my new Garden amongst the Brocoli, and ran him hard up to the end of the Bowling Green by Bridgen's where we lost him, and trying back found a rabbit near the Ice House which after a famous Hunt we killed. It rained so hard we lost the Hare. If Bonny & Beauty had been with us, she would not have escaped us.

We are all well here, and at Summerhill. The Sidneys, Summerhills, Boynes, Streatfeilds, &c. &c. dine here on Saturday. When do you come Home? Remember me to Scholfield & all Friends. I hope he keeps you bang. Perhaps I may pay you a visit next Term but it all depends upon the Captain. I have got Possession of Tom Relph's Farm, where I mean to spend more of my Time in fine weather. We all dine with Dr. Knox on Monday, it being his Birth Day. Vi comes down & we shall have a jolly Day. John George Children is gone to Lisbon & means to proceed to Italy. If he never returns it will be no loss in my opinion. Be a good Boy and mind your Books. Remember the old saying, "When House and Land are gone & spent, then *Larning* is most excellent."

Yrs affectly,

W. F. Woodgate."

The next letter appears to have been written early in 1801, but is undated.

"When you desired me to send your coat, you ought to have told me how I was to have directed the Box. I was obliged to see Boman who has done it for me. Leaving your Coat behind you *was so like you*. Ah! Stephen you would loose your Bagnell if you could get it off. No tidings of your Hat yet, and I think now there is no chance of your ever setting your two good looking eyes on your Skimmer again. As I sent your coat in a Box, I thought it wd be a good opportunity of sending

(k) The Caves for a few months owned Summerhill (see p. 39). Joseph Cave of Tonbridge died in 1820, aged 69; "many years a respectable inhabitant of that town and a near relative of the ancient family of Caves, formerly of Summerhill."

you a Hare and a brace of Pheasants. I proposed it to Harry and my *pretty Jane*, but they both laughed and said it would be sending Coals to Newcastle. I am sure you will say that my intention was *well meant* and that I am a *good* creature. It was so *like* you going to the Ancient Music in boots ; a little bird whisper'd in my ear the whole story. How could you be so *shiftless* ! Your commissions all arrived safe ; I am quite disappointed with my *life*. I think it both foolish and miserable.

To-day we dine with Mr. South Cash, the Xmas party with the addition of a fourth Miss Nash, her two Brothers and their friend. There will be 26 to dinner on Tuesday. We *junket* away at Green Trees. Your father is so very *poorly* that he will not be able to go to-day. His journey to Lidsdown has brought on something like the Gout ; he has not yet got his crutches nor is Miss *Sophy* wheeled round, therefore you may be sure he is not very Bad. Miss Scoones has had a relapse and is I think in a very precarious state. *Nan* & I call'd on her on Sunday but she was too ill to admit either of us. I have no news to tell you. I shall expect to hear from you again some time between this and Xmas. Believe me, yours candide et constante

A famous Admiral.

With respect to the *Killing* words you mention in your last Concerning my never being a Wife, I can only say this, Dum spiro spero. Perhaps you may not recollect that the Admiral I allude to is *Benbow*."

The next letter must have been written about March, 1801, at a time when, owing to wet harvests, wheaten flour could not be cooked and everyone was obliged to eat brown bread, which was the only variety sold. The quartern loaf was sold for 1s. 7½d., and the threepenny loaf only weighed about 10 oz. Those were bad times indeed, especially for those whose income was derived from the land.

" Summer Hill, Sunday Morning
[? March, 1801].

My dear Stephen,

I only wish it had pleased your high and *mightiness* to have let me know whether or not you had recd your coat ; I sent it the day after I had your letter, surely you could have given a line or two just to have said that you recd it safe. How can you be so *George* ? But *it is so like you*. We go on much after the old plan here. I do not see much variation in our plan of living. We eat, drink, laugh, cry, ride, walk, sleep, nod, doze, dream and snore as usual, except Harry, who all at once is grown particularly fond of *musings* in the *grove*, or wandering by a *purling rill* ; " he eats little, thinks much and in thinking sighs " as Scrub says. Some say one thing and some another, but for my part I think he is in something that begins with an L, or in other words I think he is in LOVE. Symptom the first : he is uncommonly *silent*, that's a sign of Love. Symptom the 2 : he is monstrous absent and very cross, that's a sure sign ; and symptom the third and last ; he is never happy or contented but when he is on the other side of Hadlow turnpike gate. Now after my saying this, I suppose your *wise head* will immediately imagine that *May* flowers are springing up *again*, but you are far from the mark. Miss Nash is the goddess of his idolatry, but this is all *nonsense* ; I will venture to say he is as *heart whole* at this moment as when you left him, tho he has certainly been very *brisk* at Green Trees. We had a very large party at Mr. Mercer's ; there really was fish, flesh, fowl and good red herring. We made up a dance of eleven couples ; they certainly *meant well* but I had much rather have sat down to a good comfortable game of Cards, for what pleasure do you think it could have been to me to be *pulled and panted* about by Will Mugridge and Harper, *all very good people in their way as ever lived* but certainly not the most agreeable or best dancers in the world ? However the Mercers *meant well*, so of course I was pleased. Your father is quite recover'd from his late attack of the gout. Mr. Lingard's election for the clerkship of the Mereworth road comes on Wednesday ; it is expected to be a very contested one. Of course they are making all the interest they can for him at Tonbridge : Selby and

Dudlow are the other candidates. Your old friend Mrs. Whipping senr. died on Wednesday aged sixty two. When you write to me I wish you would mention the number of Mr. Webster's (the stocking man I mean whose bill you paid for your father) as I want some hose and shall write to him for some, but have forgot his direction, so pray do not forget it.

The Allnutts go to Sutton to-morrow; her little Fanny has been very ill. Mr. Wakefield thinks that the brown bread does not agree with her. How is the brown loaf relished in your part of the world? Here the common people grumble sadly; I assure you we all despond extremely at the badness of the times and I am extremely afraid that Harry's words will be verified. What is to become of us all I am at a loss to confess. Mrs. Harrison came to Tonbridge on Thursday; she is very ill and really seems half starved. I understand that Edgar and his Rib are as poor as poor can be. Miss Scoones has had a second relapse and I am afraid there is now but little chance of her recovery. I find the John Allnutts and John Garthwaites are in part reconciled; the latter have been staying in Mark Lane, but with respect to the other branches of the family they are farther off an accomodation than ever. Old Mr. Pott is so extremely ill that he is not expected to live long. I wish from my soul that he may leave a certain friend of ours a good ten thousand; Amen say you. I have made a particular enquiry and find that your Horse, Dogs &c are as well as can be expected. Gip told me yesterday that you certainly had her fan. Fye Mr. Stephen: *tis so like you she says*. She shall expect a very smart one when you return. Stephen Hooker said something the other day about giving a little dance; if he does, I hope he will stay till the roads are a little better, for they are so intolerably bad that it will be impossible for us to attempt getting to Broad Oak. Every body I saw to-day and to whom I made known my intention of writing desire their best respects to the Oxford *wit*. Yours affectionately

M. W."

As to the roads, it was customary for the Spring Grove Woodgates to send out a wagon in advance with a number of faggots to repair the worst places, when they went out to dine in the winter. No doubt the Summerhill family did the same.

"Summer Hill, Sunday Morn,
April 20th, 1801.

My dear Stephen,

No news is good news all the world over; therefore as you did not hear from me this morning, you must naturally conclude that your Father is considerably better, indeed I never saw him better than he has been the last two days. He now gets up by eight, and is this morning gone out on horseback, and I have no doubt but in a very few days he will quite recover his strength and be able to jump over the moon if there should be any occasion for him to take such a leap. I have one very bad piece of news to tell you, which is that your old friend Mr. William Eldridge is extremely ill. James West told us last night that he did not expect him to live the week. I will not seal this letter till they return from Church that I may give you their report concerning your old friend. I must tell you a *nanny goat* of Fanny Allnutt. Mr. West called here yesterday, and when he took his departure, he said to the child, "Well, Fanny, when will you make me a visit?" "You should not say *visit*," said she, "you ought to say *visit*; you are a fool!" Of course there was a general laugh in which the Gentleman himself joined, though I think he was a little hurt at what Fantail said. It certainly was "out of the mouths of babes and sucklings" &c. We received a parcel from Lord Callico this morning; your Mother fully expected a seal, but lo & behold! she was disappointed.

When I got back to my Aunts' on Wednesday I found Mr. Rideout. This affair of Sam Nicoll's has greatly injured Mrs. R's. health; they are now apprehensive that she will have another fit. If she does, I imagine it will prove fatal. The grand news from the Baltic has raised our spirits two *pegs*; they illuminated at the

Wells last night in Consequence, but you know the *Tunbridgites* are always behind hand in these kind of affairs. We heard from Fanny this morning ; by her account Mrs. J. Allnutt is in a very precarious state. Let me know how you made out at River Hill, &c. We have got a very smart lady in the room of Salley, Miss Brigden; I hear Sally and Pike intend to apply for John Killick's house ; I think it will just suit them. You shall hear from some of us on Sunday. No news whatever. Yours affectionately

M. W.

They are just returned from Church, Mr. Eldridge much better."

Mr. Woodgate it seems had experienced gout very badly. Sarah Woodgate writes the beginning of next month, "My Brother called on us yesterday for the first time since his confinement. He has had a very severe fit of the gout and is much reduced by it." The same authority explains the affair that disturbed Mrs. Rideout's health. She says; "Was not you surprised to hear that the match was off between our friend S. Nicoll and Miss Murray? We have seen Mr. Rideout since, who says 'twas entirely his fault that he made a most ridiculous business of it ; he has now joined his regiment."

Stephen Hooker was the owner of Broad Oak, Brenchley, a cousin of the Hookers of Tonbridge. When Thomas Hooker sold Tonbridge Castle to Mr. Woodgate he removed to Testwood near Southampton, where he died about 1805. The intimacy between the two families was not destroyed by the distance that intervened ; for the next letter is an invitation to Stephen to visit him at Testwood.

"Testwood near Southampton
May 3rd, 1801.

My dear Stephen,

I hope you continue your intention of not going into Kent this approaching Vacation & that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you for the whole or as much as you can indulge me with. According to my memorandum it commences on the 16th of May (instant), & I know that a Coach goes from Southampton to Oxford two or three times a week, which is only four miles from hence. I mention the Coach because as your honour does not keep a horse you need have no occasion to provide one, as we can help you out somehow, but that shall be at your option. My brother inform'd me in a letter recd to-day that your father has been out after his long confinement, but is yet very weak, & that your mother & sister Ann will be in Town by the latter end of next week at Mrs. Weatherall's. This fine weather has made the New Forest very beautiful & I hope you will enjoy it as much as I do, though I suppose you prefer Latin & Greek scenery better than any thing. God bless you, Stephen. Accept our affectionate regards & believe me, ever yours truly

Thos. Hooker."

There is also a letter from the other brother, John Hooker of Cheapside, extending a hospitable invitation to his nephew Stephen. John Hooker was deaf, and characterized by many peculiarities, some of which he carried to great lengths. He was very fond of riding about the country on horseback, and only put up at Inns where he could obtain plenty of *cream*. When he stopped at an Inn for the night, his first enquiry would be whether they had any cream? The landlord of course immediately assured him that they had the best cream in the neighbourhood. "Produce it," Hooker used to say, to the great discomfiture of the landlord, who generally had not a drop of cream in the house. In that case he would go on to the next Inn.

"Monday, 7 Xber, 1801.

My dear friend Stephanus,

I hope this will find you in rare health and spirits & your pockets lined with *Gould*. The time I presume is nearly approaching, when I may expect the pleasure of seeing you in Cheapside (for be assured it always is a pleasure) but I must entreat

you to let me know the day of your arrival here as soon as you have made up your mind on that business, otherwise I may possibly be obliged to turn you into a Haunted-room to sleep, where I am credibly informed there are the most dreadful Apparitions & Ghosts that ever were heard of. I have lately heard from your Tunbridge Connections, and they have been vast merry—a world of piping, Dancing & Drumming, Squirrel-hunting and a deal of pastime of that sort, with plenty of *good cheer*. I don't hear of any weddings going forward, tho' I don't believe Matri: is at a stand-still. Now, Cousin Stivey, you must pay a particular attention to what I am going to remark, which is *as follows*; you have frequently brought me from Oxford either Brawn or Sausages or some of the dainties from that famous City, but I must beg you will this Xmas decline bringing me any thing from this honest declaration of mine, My Garners are filled with all manner of Stores, have plenty of good things in my larder, to which I know there will be a succession from my good Kentish friends who are ever liberal—so I beg you will come up empty-handed (another time *Reliss* alias *relish* may be acceptable). With truest regards I remain, dear Stephen, yours most heartily,

John Hooker.

This is not the season for Goldfinch-Ice-Cream."

The next is concerned with the birth of Henry Woodgate, afterwards of Belbroughton.

"Summerhill, May 12th, 1801.

You may suppose that when I wrote my last truly laconic epistle I was in rather an upish humour, for to tell you the truth I thought it rather odd that we had not once heard from you since you made your exit, but your sermon on Tuesday amply satisfied me, so now I shall begin on a fresh score. Your nephew Henry grows charmingly; with respect to his beauty, I think him much like all other children at the same age, tho' some body, willing to please Papa and Mama, think him quite "an Angel," and can easily trace

"Boman's mouth and nose,
His Mother's eyes as *blue* as sloes."

The Christening will take place I believe some time next month; the sponsors, my uncle Henry, my aunt Gilly Flower (Rose) and Mr. A. Pott. I will relieve your anxiety concerning your old friend Mr. Wm. Eldridge; a sharp fit of the gout has driven his old complaint quite away and he is now as well as can be expected.

Your father is at last got quite well, except a swelling in his arm which pains him occasionally. My Mother and Ann go to Mrs. Weatherall's on Wednesday, therefore if you want any Commissions, direct to them there. Mrs. J. Allnutt is considerably better than when I wrote last and there are now great hopes of her entire recovery. We carried the children home yesterday [from South Park] but are to leave them again on Friday as Mrs. Allnutt and Fanny are going to Epsom Races next week. "Nice Man" is here again with his two great lubberly boys. Mrs. John Brigden (ci-devant Miss Finch) had a son and heir yesterday morning. Miss Brigden succeeds Sally, and we all approve of her highly. Another *chance* for you, if you *can't deal* with the Walters. Mrs. John Hussey has taken half Wilmot's house, a *smart widow* with only one child; you can't do better I think. We have not yet paid our visit to Dr. Watson; his wife seems *as good a creature as ever lived*, but certainly has not the *gift*. The Skinners come next week; I don't think that I shall honour them with my presence, as really they are not worth *sporting* a new hat for. The world speak as of a done thing between Nan and Peter; what confirms us is that he has been at the Castle for a day or two since she has been there. The London journey will settle it of course. Lord, how I like to take the wise ones in! I shall expect to hear from you next Tuesday, so don't disappoint me. I suppose you know the story of Mrs. W. Pott; she has been most graciously received by the whole family. Our best wishes attend you. Yours affectionately

M. W."

The next letter is from Anne Woodgate, shortly before her marriage. Though she does not mention Peter Nouaille, the letter is full of interest. Kent was certainly the home of cricket, and the Woodgates seem to have entered into the game with zest. Tom Martin was a local cricketer, and his name survives in "Martin's Field," a piece of land that was bought of him and added to the school playing grounds. It is interesting, at this distance of time, to know the colour of the Summerhill Coach, yellow.

"Summer Hill, Saturday Evening [May, 1801].

My dear Stephen,

From what I can understand Ben has behaved extremely shabby in not writing to you ; for my part I shall not make any apology for my Silence *by reason* I never promised, for you know you said my Letters were always *Mortal Staid*, but perhaps a *Stupid* Epistle may be welcome just at this time. In the first place I must tell you my father is much better than he has been for some time, tho' he complains a good deal ; his hand & shoulder are frequently in great pain nor has he yet left off his Flannels, but I hope & trust as the Warm Weather advances his health will return. He is uncommonly busy making the new Garden ; it is all set out, & the walls are begun. The Garden coppice is taken in from the *Wild cherry Tree*. All the Walls are pulled down in the Front of the House, the dog Kennel, Duckery and round by the *large Ash* is to be converted into a Shrubbery, drying ground for *Washing*, &c. &c.; you cannot think what an improvement it is. You wou'd hardly know the place again. I am in hopes it will bring a handsome Way or rather approach to the House. They have carried the Water into the new Garden which makes it very complete, & my father is more pleased with his improvement than any Child was with a *Rattle*. He expects to have the walls completed by the time he has carried one Load of Hay. If every thing was to be pay'd for, these alterations wou'd cost eleven hundred pounds. The Masons from Eaton Bridge build the Walls.

Harry desires me to tell you that on Leigh fair day at Leigh the Postern Club (with Foster & Tom Martin, alias *Gosker*, given) play against Peckham. I sincerely hope they will be victorious ; they seem more chricket mad than ever. On Whitsun Monday Summer Hill play'd against the Postern. Harry was deem'd *too good* for them, so it was my *Jenny* against my *Jemmy*. Our People play'd so bad that they were beat, one *Hands Innings*. Harry offer'd to take *Jen*, Maria, Myself and *the Maids* (provided he bowl'd) against all those that play'd that day. Your Horse is at present under the care of Mr. Harpur who says he is the best steed in the county, & will be in excellent condition by the time you return. Harry has bought a very pretty Poney of old Borling which he has named *Jemeca* ; he has been offer'd Six Guineas for his bargain by Mr. Gildart, consequently he is much pleased with his new purchase.

Myself & Mother returned from Town last Saturday where we had spent a wondrous gay ten days. The night we arrived we went with Boman to the antient concert in the Hay Market, old Sale having sent us Tickets ; he likewise gave us tickets for St. Pauls, the Anniversary of the Charity Children (which I think was by far the finest sight I saw) & Tickets for the Ladies Catch & Glee Club, when I was greatly entertain'd. Miss Tennant was in full song & I think greatly improved since she was at Tonbridge. You cannot think how very civil old Sale was. I went to three plays, viz : the Blind Girl & Seaside Story, Othello & Petruchio, and the Pirates & Char. . . . I like your favorite Miss de Camb very much ; Cooke in Iago pleased me greatly, but I cou'd not see him in Richard *by reason* it was not acted while I was in Town. From the Time I arose in the Morn'g till I drew *my curtain* at night, I was on some pleasurable scheme—never had so much gaiety in my Life. I did not much like the Exhibition. It is six years since I was in Town, therefore you may suppose I had a vast deal to see. Last Wednesday we had our last assembly for the season ; it was but thinly attended, but very pleasant. None of the Scoones' except William present. . . . the *Bridles* there ; after supper Boman [made a] very *bad* speech about chusing when Lord Boyne

was elected in the Old *Ponto*, who retires on a *Pension*, I b was a Concerted plan between Boman *Ponto*, but to the company it *appeared* was *turn'd out*. Three worse orators (. . . . specified) I never heard. J.G. & his friend Mr. Hamet were there; the world say his Match is off, but Mr. Hamet making his *Mrs. Dudgen* rather tells us that it is not. He seems a very pleasant young man. My father & Mother did not go, so we invited *Gip* to join our Party, & just as we were going to dinner, in came Mr. Wells the Timber Merchant. He went with us to the Assembly & returned with us; I never saw a pleasanter man in my life. We left our Coach at young Squires to be painted, which will be finished in two months, during which time the quaker has lent us one of his coaches. My Mother is vastly pleased with the Idea of having it *tinkled* up. Boman has sold his Post chaise and has bought an old Landaulette; both carriages are to be painted the same color, a yellow. We have got a new Curtain & Sopha cover for my Father's room, so that what with the new Garden, Carriage & Furniture you will hardly know us. On Tuesday week the Rideouts come to us for some days; Mrs. R. writes in doleful dumps, for Sam is going to Egypt. He is now a Capt. in the 26 Regt. I have told you all the news. Maria walked yesterday over to South Park where she will tarry ten Days to learn the art of making cheese."

The next letter announces Ann's engagement and gives some particulars of Mr. Nouaille's fortune, which was even more considerable than the figure at which he is said to have delivered it:—

"South Park, Tuesday morning [June 1801].

My dear Stephen,

The sentence of the *Court* being very mild, far beyond my hopes, I will not hesitate one moment in acknowledging that you *are as good a creature as ever lived*. I have such a piece of news to tell you. Would you believe it, that the same stone that the builders refused is become the headstone of the corner? or to speak more to the purpose, e'er this everything is settled between Nan and our *Huntsman*, alias Peter Noilee, alias Noel. I never was more surprised in my life, never having suspected the least flirtation. Her prospects of Happiness I think are very bright, as everybody gives him the best of Characters, and if fortune is at all essential to Happiness, his is sufficiently large to satisfy all her wants and wishes, as Mr. Foster tells me that he delivered his income in last year at £6000, out of which he allows his father £1500 and his Mother £900. Notwithstanding, he will have a famous income till one or both of them choose to "tip over the perch." There is in my opinion but one objection, which to me wd be of considerable weight, that is the neighbourhood, having always a particular aversion to the Sevenoaks people; but perhaps it is only prejudice and will wear off when I know them better. As there is nothing to wait for, I dare say we shall mount our wedding favors long before Christmas. Nan seems vastly *delighted* at the prospect of a *spooney* and Anna tells me that they are uncommonly *sickly*. I have not yet been introduced in form to my brother elect, as the business has been settled since I have been here; but as I return on Thursday I suppose I shall be let into the secrets of the Cabinet. I have not the *least doubt* but I shall be married in the course of a *twelve month*, as we know the old saying, "Going to one wedding produces another," and "when once we do begin *the Devil himself can't stop us*."

"We have had a rare *back* at cards since Mr. and Mrs. John have been here. I have been fortune's favourite as yet. The Rideouts go to Summerhill to-morrow very opportunely, as Henry the Third is to be Christened on Friday and they will assist at the ceremony. I find Sam's regiment is ordered to Egypt which has affected Mrs. Rideout very much. I saw by the papers that Mr. Gardiner has been wounded. I always thought Mr. Allnutt one of the best *men breathing* and am now firmly convinced of it: *he gave me a new gown yesterday*. Tom Elwin and his wife have been at Ferox. He called here but I have not seen her; those that have speak of her

in the highest terms. You may as well plead ignorance to Uncle Squack concerning the *Hunting* match (Peter) till everything is finally settled. Allnutt has his gentlemen cricketing on Friday se'nnight ; I think if he proceeds in his invitations as he says he shall, he will be uncommonly fortunate if he does not give some offence, the eye is become so wondrous captious.

I cannot think what is become of the Eyles ; I write repeatedly but have not heard from them the Lord knows when. Your father has not quite got rid of the pain in his arm, but is considerably better than when I wrote last. I think you will be delighted with the improvements in front of the house, but I will not anticipate. Tom Mercer and Mr. Luttrell are both getting better as fast as possible : what a shocking thing it would have been had either of them died. I have no patience with the Scoones' setting their faces so much against the ball. We went to the Wells yesterday, not a soul on the Walks but ourselves. However as I came home a gown richer, *I thought it very pleasant*. Both the girls are well, Fanny more a favourite with me than ever ; I am certain I shall not like my little nephew Peter half so well. Let me hear from you soon, and believe me, yours affectionately
M. Woodgate."

In October most of the family, it would seem, went to Bourne, from which place Maria Woodgate writes :—

" Sunday Evening, Oct. 27, 1801.
No. 8, Terrace, South Bourn.

My dear Stef,

Tho the *Times* are vast *hard*, yet I know you will not grudge the Postage of the letter which contains the agreeable news of *Benbow's* being alive and *merry*. We had a very pleasant journey here tho' the last ten miles went terribly *against the grain*, for I was quite Mrs. Harbroc, *so tired*, and thought we never should get to the place of our destination ; tho we left the Castle at Nine we did'nt get here till quite night. I admire Bourne extremely but don't like it quite so well as Ramsgate ; the sands here are delightful. We parade it there from one till half after four, and see a *world of fine Folks*. We abound in Nobility, the Dutchess of Dorset and Lord Whitworth, Lord Handley and family, Lady Popham &c, with many others too numerous to mention in this here advertisement. (Lord Dutery here).

I am certain you would quite enjoy yourself here, for there is such a famous set of Players. We went to three Plays last week, the first " Laugh when you can " with " Bon Ton ; " " a cure for the Heart-ache," with " Of Age to-morrow ; " and last night " Richard 3d " with " Rosina," all of which they performed most capitally. Mrs. Baker's Company is a *fool to them*. There is one performer who I think nearly equal to the *Canister* alias *Banister*. The Theatre is a very neat affair and altogether I am quite delighted with my jaunt. I fancy we shall return to-morrow Fortnight, therefore unless you have something to say very much to the purpose I will not trouble you to answer this while I am here, but wait till I return, because then you know *Nunkey pays for all*, " *you take me* " (*Shakespere*) ? Anna and Boman with Fanny and Henry Arthur came here on Monday ; I am in hopes that the sea air will be of great service to the Children, particularly *Granma's tarrange*. Anna hopes you will not forget the Scotch airs harmonized by Dr. Hays ; she says she spoke to you about them. How did you make out with *cuck* if you went up together in the Coach ? I think *Folks will begin to talk* but perhaps you are making interest with Mama for the sake of our Miss. My Brother *Lyar* thinks from what he has heard that it is highly necessary your Father should speak to poor *Alicia* about the *Scarlet Fever* ; where that flirtation will end I cannot think. It is such a fine moon light night that we are tempted to parade on the Sands, tho it is now past nine o clock, therefore I must subscribe myself here, yours most affectly,

Benbow.

Father and *Mother* and *Such* desire their best remembrance to the Oxoniensis ; I should not have honor'd you with an Epistle if Time did not hang rather heavy on my hands this Evening."

The Major was back at Tonbridge the next month, and as anxious for some brawn as John Hooker was the reverse.

“Novr. 28, 1801.

Dr. Stephen,

We are all well at the Castle & at Summerhill. I wish you would send me by the Coach on Sunday Evening half a Collar of Brawn, very Horny : the Stag and the Copper are here and are anxious to taste it. If you wish for a Brace of Pheasants and a Hare I will send them in a day or two.

Yrs affectly,

W. F. Woodgate.

Friday Eveg. Post waits.”

“Greatness, Monday, March 29th [1802?].

My dear Stephen,

. . . . I called at the Postern on Friday and think I never saw a place so much improved since I was there, which was last summer. I was grieved to see Mr. West's eye which appears to me to be much worse than it was when I last saw him. When I was upon the Hill I called on all those who had called upon me, and I assure you Mr. P. N. was admitted upstairs to see Mrs. Sclater, who I think looks very well. I suppose you have not heard that on Wednesday last Mrs. Tom Hooker (Emma Greenland) was as well as could be expected, and of her child they said nothing but that it was a son. Tom Hooker wrote to Mrs. Sclater to announce this event and from Elmden was issued the above bulletin. Mrs. Harrison was expected to spend some time at Tonbridge this spring. Mrs. Illingworth arrived at Mrs. Harvey's on Thursday last ; how long she will tarry at Tonbridge the *Elmden Gazette* does not inform us. Mrs. L—— Davis has quitted her house in the High Street, Tonbridge, and taken lodgings at Mrs. Boseman in Castle Street. We return'd from Summer Hill yesterday. We went to Church and ordered the curricule to be at my Aunt's immediately afterwards. While it was getting ready, Jemmy Hayward went up to Mr. P. N. in the Crown yard and made an apology that the bells did not ring, alleging as an excuse that he did not know we should be at Church : five minutes afterwards we left the town, so I do not know whether they rang a peal or not, but I think it is very likely, as Boman made such a fuss when we were *hanged* because they rang but two peals. You remember they all got so very tipsy. I do not hear anything of the Harbroc's Ball, and therefore begin to suspect that it has fallen to the ground, but I shall hear more on Wednesday when I propose going to South Park for some days. Mr. P. N. unites with me in love and best wishes and I remain, my dear Stephen, yours affectionately

Anne Nouaille.”

With reference to Elmden and the Sclaters, we may here notice a song, written and sung by Maria Woodgate at “a female party at Elmden,” February 10th, 1797. Mrs. Sclater was a sister of Mrs. Woodgate of Summerhill :—

1

Let others on this jovial night

To Balls, or Routs, or Courts repair ;

We Spinsters six feel more delight

Than they can find or meet with there,

Since *Man*, the Odious, Tyrant, Lord,

To-night we don't admit, Ma'am,

Around this Board, with plenty stor'd,

With us madcaps to sit, Ma'am.

Then all join in Chorus and sing both firm and Hearty

May fortune bless our cousin Bess

And this her female Party.

Our President [Miss Sclater] she did judge well,
 And I with truth approve her plan,
 From this her party to expel
 That hated creature, Tiresome Man;
 Our Mirth is check'd when he is by,
 For he no fun or Pleasure knows
 Unless he plagues us with his kisses,
 Breaks the chairs or tears our cloaths.
 Then all join in chorus &c.

To-night no one shall here be teased
 With sighs, or roguish looks or leers,
 Or Whisper soft or loving Squeeze
 Offend our tender touch, or ears;
 Oh no, with friendship's sacred flame
 Our Bosoms throb and burn;
 Love we detest, a plague at best,
 And sterner Hymen spurn.
 Then all join in chorus &c.

Were I the Queen of Briton's Isle
 And ruled with sceptred glory,
 My wise laws, and my government
 Would shine in future story;
 I'd Banish men from out my realm,
 Those useless wretches, cruel spies;
 No Males, I ween, (were I a Queen)
 Should e'er pollute your virgin eyes.
 Then all join in chorus &c.

To guard from men my native shore
 (Who'd wish to visit us no doubt)
 I'd raise an Amazonian corps
 And fairly drive the monsters out;
 So sweetly would our Hours fly,
 So sweetly glide our Lives,
 We'd Spinsters die, without a sigh,
 And ne'er be wretched wives.
 Then all join in chorus &c.

The French they talk of coming o'er
 To view our matchless charms;
 Oh, how I wish they'd reach our shore
 And call our males to arms.
 Were fate Propitious to my prayers,
 Such slaughter should we find,
 The French and English all should fall,
 No males be left behind.
 Then all join in chorus &c.

But till that happy time arrives,
 When men no more by us are seen,
 Our toast shall be, May Heaven preserve
 The Sisterhood and me the Queen;
 And we will drink each Spinster's health
 But chiefly yours, my Cousin dear,
 And may you female parties give
 To us staunch Maidens every year.
 Then all join in chorus &c.

The following duet was written by Edgar Austen, and sung by him and his cousin Anne Woodgate at Mrs. Simmons', March 16th, 1797:—

A. W. Since we, dear Girls, this night are met
 And songs go round the table,
 I with the rest will raise my pipe
 As well as I am able
 Tol de rol &c.
 As well as I am able

From morn to night men Plague us sore
 With longing looks and sighing,
 And when they get us by themselves
 They cram us up with Lying.
 Ah then, then 'tis, I love you Miss,
 In deed, I am not Lying.

They surely think us wondrous weak
 To win us by deceiving,
 For true enough 'tis plain and clear
 A Man there's no believing.
 Ah No, no, no, indeed 'tis so
 A Man there's no believing.

Then let us be upon our Guard
 And Spinsters be respected,
 Nor let creation's Lords e'er boast
 By them we are protected.
 We scout them all, both great and small,
 Nor live by them protected.

In short, dear Girls, take my advice,
 My plan and pray persue it;
 Or when you've lost your tender Hearts
 Perchance you'll like to see it;
 And when too late you'll curse your fate
 And surely like to see it.

E. A. Oh say, fair Maid, I prythee say,
 How far our Court avails,
 For if our Words have no effect
 A gentle squeeze prevails.
 Ah then, then, then, the charming man
 The charming man prevails.

For tho' you sometimes fret and fume
 'Tis counterfeit displeasure;
 For only just one tender kiss
 And Man's a monstrous treasure;
 A kiss, a kiss, that charming bliss
 And man's a monstrous treasure.

Full well I know, full well you know,
 How oft you scold and flout us;
 But after all I'm sure you'll own
 You cannot do without us.
 Ah no, no, no, your actions show
 You cannot do without us.

For you we live, for you we'll die
 Nor think our lot distressing,
 Since surely now you stand confessed
 That Man's your greatest blessing.
 Ah yes, yes, yes, you'll now confess
 That Man's your greatest blessing.

Together	E. A.	Ah yes, yes, yes, you'll now confess
	A. W.	Ah no, no, no, I'll ne'er confess
	E. A.	That Man's your greatest blessing
	A. W.	That Man's the smallest blessing.

The following letter is the only one extant written by Mrs. Woodgate :—

“ Sunday Even, June 29th, 1802.

My dear Stevening,

I am very much obliged by your letter of yesterday, and take an early opportunity of acquainting you that your petition concerning a watch is granted. Your father complied immediately with a *smile*, and he has authorized me to ask you which you like best, such a watch as John has or one with a silver case, that he may write to Green^e & Ward and have it ready for you in Town. Now you know that silver watches are all the tipper and wear for ever, and was I to choose, it should be a silver case because its most fashionable, but as you will be the possessor please yourself and let me know. About a fortnight ago we all dined at Mr. Nouaille's at Sevenoaks, met the Southparks, Castleites, Mrs. & Miss Nash & Mr. Willard's brother Peter, a very sumptuous affair I assure you ; *old Brazier* returned with *P.P.* to Greatness and I have not seen her since, nor do I expect her home till the latter end of this week.

Last Wednesday week I received an invitation from Anna to go with her to Leigh Fair, and being *young* I accepted, and we set off about four and drove to Mr. Harbroc's, where we had tea *instantly*, met Fanny and Mr. Allnutt, Mr. Saint and two Mrs. Saints, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Walter, Mr. Hammond and Mr. Peckam. We then paraded to the green, and entered a *grand Calavan* to see a variety of *beautiful* wax figures, among which was the late King and Queen of France as *natural as life*. The Cricketing was Tunbridge against Wrotham ; Henry and John both played, but the game was not played out, as night came on, but the advantage was much in favour of Tunbridge. Last Wednesday our boys went to Wrotham to play the returned game, when the *Tunbridgians* beat the *Wrothamites* by five wickets. James West I hear did great things in the catching way. Mr. West's affairs seem to *hang* and *wither* ; he spent the evening here the other night and I thought him remarkably low, yet I think it will take place. I had a large party last Sunday in the afternoon ; Mrs. W. Harvey, *Peas* and his brother Henry, Miss Fly, Mrs. Walter and two daughters and four Scoones'. I hardly knew how to bear such clack, for I was *mortal feeble* ; for I had over fatigued myself the day before with riding and was really very ill for a few days, but I have now got quite well again. The Walters have gone into Lincolnshire for two months. To-morrow Mrs. Whittaker, Charlotte, George and Augustus dine with us ; and I am sorry to tell you yesterday week they had a terrible rumpus, what about I do not know, but the old man turned Augustus out of doors and said he never wished to see him alive again. The poor fellow went to George and has been there ever since : what they will do I cannot think. I suppose I shall hear the whole of it to-morrow from her, as she sent me word she wished much to see me.

Last Friday your old friend Bob Shelly called here ; we could not persuade him to stay dinner, but he promised he would dine with us on Tuesday next and stay all night. He looks remarkably well and liked his quarters at Hythe very much, but I believe he is now disbanded. We are afraid we are going to have a contested election. Honeywood's people are canvassing and Mr. Polhill was at Tunbridge yesterday and got many votes : and Sir Edward and Mr. Hussey called here ten days

ago, and went to Mr. Children's, the Major's, Lord Boyne's, and Mr. Benson's, but said he should not canvass till after the nomination at Maidstone, which is expected very soon. I call his being here and at those places canvassing, don't you? Sir William Geary sent word he should call here this week; I really think it is time they should *begin* if they mean anything. So far on Sunday night. Monday noon. Henry dined yesterday at Greatness and left them all well. On Thursday there is to be a Visitation at Tunbridge and the grand Cricket match is to be played the same day, but I shall honor neither of them with my presence. Our party has just arrived, so must conclude before dinner, as the *prophet* decamps at six. All well. Boman dines here. Yours affectionately,

F. Woodgate."

There is in existence an old broadside describing the people who attended the polling at Maidstone. The Woodgates were there. The gentlemen went on horseback, the ladies in a carriage.

" . . . Then the shafts of a chaise broke of in a hurry,
Which put Mrs. and Miss Woodgate into a flurry."

The next letter is written by Mr. Woodgate himself, announcing the death of the Vicar of Pembury, and offering the living to Stephen. Stephen was yet very young, still at Trinity, but everything seems to have been managed satisfactorily, without the necessity of a "warming pan." The house was within easy distance of Summerhill, and only a few hundred yards from Spring Grove.

"Summer Hill, Monday Noon,
June 20th, 1803.

My Good Fellow,

I take the earliest opportunity of informing you of the Death of my very old and truly respectable Friend, the Vicar of Pembury. Mr. Luttrell prepared us to receive the News yesterday Morning, but the Event did not take Place till Midnight or early this Morning. I wish it had pleas'd God to have spar'd his Life at least for a few Months longer, for your sake as well as my own, as then I trust we should have had little or no trouble. But *Fiat Voluntas* and we must all obey.

I promised you the next Presentation, and I now with the greatest Pleasure perform that Promise, with every wish, Hope and Prayer that you may long live to enjoy it. You will very early be brought into Life, and I have every reason to think you will Continue to act well, and preserve the good character you have hitherto established. And the Advice among a thousand others, which my Father gave to me, I most sincerely submit to you: *Nil conscire sibi, nullâ pallescere culpâ*. There is more Meaning in that happy Quotation than three sides of paper will Contain. You will now have an Opportunity before you leave College of informing yourself of the ground you stand upon, and among the *Literati* will get instructed exactly of the earliest Moment you can take Possession. I understand I have six Months, the Bishop six more, and the Archbishop afterwards has the same Time. Surely if we play our cards well we may be able to secure it without a Presentation, I mean without getting any body to hold it.

You must make Dr. Foster your confidential Friend as he has the Ear of the Bishop and most likely will secure him in our Interest. We are bound by every Tie of Gratitude to conduct ourselves most accomodatingly to him, but still if it could be brought about, I can see no objection why you could not immediately undertake the Church, more especially as your Brother is one of the Wardens, *but more of this Anon*. We are going to Dinner at Hall Place to meet the Allnutts &c. and I am afraid you will not be able to read what I have wrote; I have but a few Minutes to spare, but I will drive on as long as they last. Our Friends at Greatness spent the Day here yesterday and I am happy to say they are in great Spirits & look remarkably well. Mr. West goes with us in the Coach. Tell Simpkin his Father is bravely and be sure caution him to be a good Boy, *to mind your Advice*

and avoid Drunkenness. They are all ready & the Coach at Door. Our united Love &c.

Yr truly affectionate Father
Wm. Woodgate."

Four months later Mrs. Woodgate died in the sixty-first year of her age, on the 25th November, 1803, after three days illness, and was buried at Tunbridge. She is described as having been "a lady of most amiable disposition and engaging manners." She had been ill in September and attended with a good deal of fever. George Humphry writes in September, 1802.

"On my way to Hastings. . . . I saw my Uncle William at Tunbridge, who informed me that my Aunt Woodgate was so ill as to be obliged to keep her bed; he desired particularly to be remembered to all my family."

The last of the Summerhill letters was written by the Major, announcing Henry Woodgate's engagement to Miss Georgina Hamilton, the daughter of Lord Boyne:—

"Castle, June 10th, 1804.

Dear Stephen,

Had you reached Oxford safe & sound as you expected, I am sure you would have given me a Line respecting Taylor, according to your promise. I am well aware that to a Learned Divine (who is always engaged in writing the best of Sermons) the trouble of addressing two Lines to a Layman is great, therefore may I request that you will be so good as to ask Charles to inform me if he knows or has heard any thing lately of the Reverend Elias Taylor, Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford. I cannot suppose for a moment that a candidate for a Prebendal Stall at Canterbury has been engaged the whole week at Ascot Races. Unless the Chaplain of the West Kent Regt. of Yeomanry Cavalry is heard of within 4 days from the date hereof, it will be infer'd that he has Departed this Life in some obscure Hole, and a New Chaplain will be appointed. It is now finally agreed on that Henry Woodgate Esqre. of Spring Grove, takes unto himself the second Daughter of Lord Viscount Boyne to wife on Saturday next. The ceremony is to be perform'd by the Revd. T. Harvey, Clerk, at the Parish Church at Pembury. The Bride and Bridegroom with their Friends dine at Summerhill afterwards. Strange as these arrangements may appear, it is so settled at present. The Curate at Mereworth will probably hear further particulars in good Time. The Governor of the Castle will be happy to see an odd Being by the name of Stag any day this Month, or he will meet his Friend Sharkaback in London any day after the Wedding: I have offer'd to officiate as Groom of the Bedchamber on the Occasion but have been rejected, but without Disdain. A Person who has lately built a Cottage in Quarry Hill Wood, and who is no Englishman, yet a great preserver of Game, has recently shot the favorite Hound of John Woodgate (of the Pembury Company) which he some time since purchased of a Gamekeeper by the name of Stephens. The animal is not yet dead and hopes are entertained of its recovery. The second Meeting of the Wells Book Club was held at the Sussex on Thursday last, when the Revd. Stephen Woodgate was elected a Member and the whole of his subscriptions for Dining, Wine, Books &c. for one Year, amounting to £3 12s. 0 was paid by his Brother

W. F. Woodgate."

A certain degree of jealousy appears to have existed between Maria Woodgate and Alicia Ashburnham; the former eventually married the father, the latter the son (by the first wife) when all became harmony again. But before this, it is rather amusing to read in June, 1805, Alicia West's remarks (she was then the wife of James Eldridge West) to Miss Humphry:—

"The visitation at Doctor Knox's was during our absence, but from what I can understand we had no loss whatever, as it was rather a *stupid* affair. I am told Maria Woodgate was presented with a garland; now in my *humble* opinion she is

rather too *ancient* to have such *honour* conferred on her. I have not once had the *supreme felicity* of seeing her (since you left me) not even at a third place."

The garlands were given to the head boys in the school, as well as prizes; each boy presented the garlands to such lady present as he deemed most worthy of it.

William Woodgate began to decline in 1809, and his life was evidently despaired of for some time before his death; for his nephew William Ozias Humphry writes on 1st February, 1809, to his sister, "I was sorry to hear the intelligence you sent about my uncle William; I should suppose he will be an irreparable loss to his family." He died the 29th May, 1809, aged 65, and was buried the 3rd June following (l).

For an interesting survey of his life we are indebted to a copy of a letter addressed to Lord Clarendon by Ozias Humphry, the celebrated artist, whose brother married William Woodgate's sister:—

"Dear Lord Clarendon,

For two or three weeks past I have been meditating a letter of respect and thanks to your Lordship for the repeated instances of your kindness and favor, but have been prevented by my ancient and invincible infirmities, imperfect sight, which now obliges me to entreat the assistance of a Friend. I left London on Monday last to visit my Brother and my Friends in Kent. I arrived at his residence in the Evening and had the satisfaction to find him and all his Family in perfect health. My brother has been established here under the patronage of the Duke of Dorset and in the house of Lord Camden's family for nine and thirty years past, and it is now more than two and thirty years since he connected himself with the Woodgate

(l) Two anecdotes are related of Mr. Woodgate. One of his gardeners, a very stupid fellow, who never waited to hear the end of a sentence, was being instructed to convey a message to a neighbour. Before Mr. Woodgate could state what the message was, the man said "Yes, Sir," and went off. Mr. Woodgate allowed him to depart, and in due time he reached the house. He asked to see the master and began that he had been sent with a message, and then for the first time realized that he had not heard what it was. The gentleman knew this servant's peculiarity, and replied, "Oh, I know what your master wants. Take this to Squire Woodgate, with my compliments," pointing to a large stone. The day was hot; the ascent to Summerhill long and steep; and the man probably realised the folly of his ways!

The other story is to the effect that, during one of his rambles, Mr. Woodgate found himself in a desolate part of the country and a heavy snowstorm coming on. Just as the first few flakes descended he espied a light, and discovered a small wayside inn. He knocked; and after a considerable interval heard the bolts drawn back and the door opened. The landlord, a most villainous looking man, growled out that there was no room, and was about to slam the door in Mr. Woodgate's face when the latter, disinclined to pursue his journey in the storm which was then raging, forced his way in and insisted on being accommodated. The man called his wife, a woman of even more villainous aspect; and after a whispered consultation said they could find him a room. In a short time new laid eggs and smoking rashers of bacon were laid before him, of which he partook heartily and retired to rest.

To his astonishment the room was a large well-pitched chamber in the front of the house, evidently the best bedroom. He had expected some attic, and was agreeably surprised. He made fast the door and was soon asleep. During the night he awoke, with a feeling of intense cold. He had piled all his clothes on the bed, but could not get warm. Finally he recollected having observed a big cupboard, which might contain some rugs, got up, and endeavoured to open the door. It was tightly jammed, and Mr. Woodgate, who was a big, powerful man, was obliged to exert all his strength. Suddenly the door flew open, and something fell forward out of the cupboard, extinguishing the candle. It was a corpse! Mr. Woodgate, nothing daunted, re-lighted the candle, put back the corpse, and got into bed again, and, what is more strange, passed an excellent night. In the morning he complained of his uncomfortable companion to the landlord, who explained that the man had died there the previous day and was laid out on Mr. Woodgate's bed; and that as the latter insisted on being put up, he had put the corpse into the cupboard and given him the bed.

It is also stated that in the old days of the "mountebanks" when smuggling was carried on with the connivance of almost the entire country, that sometimes a party of smugglers with their packhorses coming up from the coast would encamp for the night in the wilder part of Summerhill Park, behind the house, in the direction of Tudeley. There they were never molested. Perhaps they were too numerous and too well armed. In the early morning, however, a gardener might be seen making his way up to the house with a keg of brandy or something similar, which had been left behind by the smugglers as a peace offering!

family of Summer Hill, Tonbridge, Kent. I think I have mentioned this circumstance when I have had the honor to be at the Grove [Lord Clarendon's seat]. It is now three months since Mr. Woodgate, Mrs. Humphry's eldest brother who resided at Summer Hill, died ; by his frugality and skill in agricultural concerns he enlarged his original fortune very considerably, insomuch that at his Death the Property he possessed is estimated at full three hundred thousand pounds. This large property he has not bequeathed to his eldest son, but has conformably to the practise of this country divided it, governing himself by the principle of gavelkind. He left four sons : to each of the younger he has given a sum of thirty thousand pounds in Timber and Estate, with an exception in favour of his third son to whom he has added Twenty thousand pounds more. To each of his three daughters he has given Three thousand five hundred pounds and no more, a scanty provision in proportion to the sons, but this has been invariably the practise of the Family. Mr. Woodgate's eldest sister married the present Sir William Ashburnham by whom he has issue. The eldest nephew of my sister who now enjoys the estate & resides at Summer Hill married Miss Allnutt, a beautiful woman with a handsome Fortune. The second son married the Honorable Miss Hamilton, a daughter of Lord Boyne of Ireland ; the fourth, the Revd. Stephen Woodgate, has recently been married to Miss Hardinge, a near relation of Earl Camden, with a Fortune of Ten thousand pounds. The other son is at present unmarried. The other branches of this respectable Family are equally well settled. By this it must appear that I have many inducements to visit my Family in Kent."

In stating that the daughters had but £3,500 apiece Mr. Humphry was not strictly within the truth ; they each had £10,000 on their marriage, in addition to which smaller sums were left to them by the will.

This will, which was in the Testator's own handwriting, was dated the 4th March, 1805 ; it recites the marriage articles and death of his wife.

To Maria, £3,500, and £30 payable immediately.

To Frances wife of Richard Allnutt of Southpark, £500.

To the poor of Tonbridge, £20 ; and of Pembury, £20.

Sums of five guineas to various people to buy memorial rings, viz. : to all his brothers and sisters, to his brothers-in-law Sir William Ashburnham, the Rev. Richard Rideout, and the Rev. Wm. Humphry, his wife's brother John Hooker of Cheapside, her sister Elizabeth Sclater, widow, her brother-in-law the Rev. Henry Austen, his nephew John Acton, and to George Children and William Scoones of Tonbridge. To William Harpur of Pembury, Gent., £500 "as a token of my regard for his faithful and diligent services," and a gold ring. All the servants, two guineas each and wages. God-daughter Julia Scoones, the daughter of William Scoones, £50 at 21 years of age.

To son Henry Woodgate, Great Hawkwell and Little Hawkwell in Brenchley, Pembury, Tudely and Capel, lately occupied by Thomas Henham and Peter and John George but then by William Harpur acting for him (William) ; the Mill, etc., occupied by Harpur, Spring Grove otherwise the Church Farm, etc., lately occupied by Chas. Crause, Esq., but then by Henry Woodgate, all in Pembury and Tonbridge ; and the following woodlands, Great-horse Pasture Wood, Hog Wood, Crab Wood, Yew Tree Wood, Stiller Wood and Church Wood in Pembury, Brenchley, Tudeley, and Capel—all free of the great Tithes of Pembury. Also "my extensive Manors of Pepingbury Magna and Pepingbury Parva otherwise Bowridge" ; and a lease for 21 years of Knowles Hill Farm otherwise Harvenden late occupied by Thomas Hartrup but then by Henry Woodgate at the rent of £34 per annum. Also "the free use of the new private road lately made through Pembury Walk Wood and the rough Fields thereunto adjoining to meet the new road lately made to his house at Spring Grove," and the same right to Stephen Woodgate with "liberty of making a new road through that part of the Church Farm next adjoining to the Vicarage

House," the latter road to be maintained by Stephen, the former at their joint expense as far as the Lane that divides Tonbridge and Pembury.

To son John Woodgate, Stonewall with house, cottages and lands and the Nunnery Wood and Pookden Wood, all in Chidingstone and Penshurst, and lately occupied by George Kiddar but then by himself. Also Sussex House farm in Cowden and Hartfield and house and lands called Kentwater in Cowden, occupied by Sawyer Goodwyn. Also Hollywith House and 183 acres occupied by Fullman, and the Manor of Hollywith.

To son Stephen Woodgate £500 in cash payable by John out of Stonewall ; the perpetual advowson of the Vicarage of Pembury ; the rectory impropriate and the great Tithes of Pembury. Also Pellet Gate farm in Pembury, Tonbridge, Tudely, and Capel, occupied by James Wooley ; also Knights Place and lands at Pembury, late occupied by Nathaniel Chittenden but then by the Parish officers of Pembury ; also a woodland called Grimble Grove containing 14½ acres at Pembury occupied by himself. Also £1,000 in cash.

To William Francis Woodgate, the eldest son, Summer Hill and lands, the Manor of South Fryth, the South Fryth Estate purchased by him of the Rev. John Templer, the Priory Mead, and all his manors and lands not before disposed of, and all his plate, furniture, ready money, public stock, etc. W. F. Woodgate to be sole executor.

There were three codicils :—The first was unimportant ; the second revoked William Harpur's legacy of £500, because William Woodgate had found himself " under an engagement to pay to Harpur one thousand guineas as a remuneration for his time and services while he continued in my employment which sum I think far exceeds any sum that I ought to pay to him and consequently he can have no further claim in honour or equity on me." ; the third mentions that since the will he had sold Sussex House farm to the Rev. Thomas Harvey of Cowden for £2,860 13 6, which he gives to John Woodgate in cash instead of in land, and gives each of his three daughters an extra £100.

The witnesses to the will were William Scoones junr. of Tonbridge, Attorney ; Richard Squire of Kings Langley, Herts ; and H. Harpur of Cannon Row, Westminster. Witnesses of first codicil : John Scoones ; John Ashdowne, clerk to Messrs. Scoones ; Daniel Butcher, a gardener at Summerhill. Of second codicil : Anne Grace Eyles and Louisa Eyles of Frant, Spinsters, and Daniel Butcher. Of third codicil : Frances Markett, William Ford Burton, and William Scoones.

The will was proved in the Prerogative Court the 13th June, 1809.

Soon after his father's death, the Major left the Castle and removed to Summerhill which underwent many alterations for his reception (see pp. 152 and 302). Tonbridge Castle had been greatly improved by the Major. The outer walls enclosed an area of six acres, which had been made into beautiful gardens. Miss Berry, a great friend of Horace Walpole who had formerly pronounced on it, paid it a visit in October, 1811, when it was still to let. " I drove with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon and Lady Erroll to Tunbridge Castle. I had no idea of the beauty of the ruin nor of the goodness of the house that they have added or attached at the side of one of the towers, between which is the grand entrance gate. The enclosure of the castle down to the river is a lawn and a shrubbery. It is at present to let, and we went all over, Mr. Gordon having some idea of taking it."

Henry and Stephen Woodgate, Mrs. Allnutt and Mrs. Nouaille were already established in houses of their own, and John Woodgate took up his residence at Stonewall with his sister Maria as housekeeper. Stonewall consisted of about 1,400 acres. He pulled down the house, which had been inhabited by successive generations of Woodgates since 1590, if not before, and built a large red-brick Georgian house which is substantially the present building. The road now runs

over the site of the old mansion, which is entirely destroyed except for a portion that has been made into the principal entrance lodge, probably the old servants' wing. The beautiful old timber and plaster work in front has been concealed by red tiles, but may still be seen from the rear, just as it originally was. The following letter was written by Maria West about 1810 to her sister, Mrs. Nouaille, enclosing a copy of the obituary notice of Mr. Nouaille senior that appeared in the annual Register.

" My dear Nan,

[1810].

I cannot possibly see you before I go to town, as I have *spunged* myself on the Burtons who go to town on Tuesday ; but I shall be happy to execute any commissions for you. I heard from Mary Weatherall yesterday ; not a word about an *accident*, but says she shall be *distracted* if she does not see me on Tuesday. I was much disappointed in not seeing Mr. Nouaille yesterday. I called to him from the Sheriff's lodgings but either he would not or could not hear me. I was much pleased with the trials, never having seen any thing of the kind before. We got home soon after eight. I like every thing I saw at Stonewall ; as soon as I return from town I shall expect you & Mr. Nouaille to pass your opinions. Not having any thing more to say, I am, yrs affly

M.W."

This letter was written from Mabledon, James Burton's house. Mr. Burton was High Sheriff of Kent in 1810, so that the letter must have been written in that year. Also, Peter Nouaille, senior, died in December, 1809, so that his obituary notice had only just appeared. It does not appear whether the improvements referred to extended to the rebuilding of the house or to alterations only.

It seems that John Woodgate was involved in the same fate that overtook his brother the Major. In 1813 he put up for sale some of his outlying property, such as the Manor farm of Hollywish in Hartfield, Sussex, consisting of 183 acres of well timbered and well-watered land in a ring fence, let at the low rent of £160 a year. This was to be sold at the Auction Mart, London, on 24th March, by Winstanley & Son ; the Solicitors were Edwards & Lyon, Bloomsbury Square.

John Woodgate in 1815 and 1816 was Churchwarden of Chidingstone, and signs the accounts in a good hand, not unlike that of the Major. In 1814 he was seriously ill and Mary Anne Humphry writes, on 5th February :—

" Mrs. Nouaille went yesterday to Stone Wall to visit her brother John, who has been very ill. She seemed on Sunday very uneasy at his illness."

In 1818 we learn from the same source that " John Woodgate has lately been spending three weeks at the Vicarage at Pembury and is now at Spring Grove." In 1819 John Woodgate was Steward of the Ball, as described by Susanna Allnutt ; though whether it was this John Woodgate or his cousin John Woodgate (of the 20th Light Dragoons) we do not know. She says :—

" Of course you had a full description of the ball from Maryanne. She looked uncommonly well and I really think she was the Belle. John Woodgate made a capital Steward ; not so Mr. Rolls. He came in very late, sat in a corner the whole evening, and never opened his lips."

In 1820 John Woodgate retired from the Yeomanry in favour of Lord Brecknock ; at that time the troop was under the command of Peter Nouaille. It seems that he went out to India ; for Mary Anne Humphry writes, on 10th February, 1826, to Lady Ashburnham :

" Have you heard of John Woodgate's good fortune ? He is promoted to a Major's rank on the staff in India with the pay of £800 per annum. Mrs. Thomas writes word he is much beloved and respected by all that know him."

In November, 1837, he was staying with his sister Maria West at Hastings. He died at her house in 1842. He was staying there with his nephew Septimus

Woodgate. They had been for a walk together and John Woodgate got his feet wet, but neglected to change his socks. He caught cold and died very soon afterwards. In person he was rather short. All those who knew him spoke of the amiable character of his disposition. We have been informed that after his death his portrait was engraved; but we have been able to come across neither portrait nor engraving. He was buried in the family vault at Pembury.

He sold Stonewall in his lifetime, probably about 1818 or 1820. It is now possessed by the Meade-Waldos.

The Woodgate's house in town was in Hanover Square. We have extracted a passage on the changed manners of the day from Mr. W. B. Woodgate's delightful *Reminiscences (m)*, just published. (He is a grandson of the Major.)

"When I was a lad I now and then saw guests who could not climb into their coaches without friendly supervision, yet used to be told that such scenes were nothing to those of my father's boyhood, when at my grandfather's town house (right hand corner of Hanover Square, where it abuts George Street), sturdy serving-men leaned their chins on their staves as they sat waiting in the entrance hall to escort home masters who might no longer be fit to take care of themselves. Or, as to my great-grandsire's table at Somerhill, Kent, (now in Goldsmid hands), *on dit* there was always a reliable lad in attendance under the table, to loosen the neckcloth of any gentleman who subsided from his chair."

Unfortunately the time was almost at hand when Summerhill was to be sold and the family broken up. The Major has been accused of recklessness and extravagance. He certainly spent considerable sums, but he was justified in doing so as long as he did not encroach on his resources; as long as he distinguished between capital and income, there could not be much harm, though he was not wise in spending the whole of his annual revenue. If has been said, too, that the estate was so cut up and sub-divided as to be incapable of supporting the house. This is ridiculous: one son had Stonewall (the original family estate), and the two other sons had the Pembury property, which had been purchased for them. The whole of Summerhill, greatly added to by the purchases from Templer and others, not to mention Tonbridge Castle and other properties, was left absolutely to the Major; and Humphry places the value at £200,000. His wife, too, had a very handsome fortune. One of his chief expenses were his musical parties at Summerhill, where the saloon was admirably suited to the purpose. It was his practise to engage the best singers of the day to perform on these occasions.

The cause of ruin, beyond all question, was the Tonbridge Bank. He was persuaded to join this unfortunate venture as a part owner when it was in a very shaky condition about the year 1810, sorely against the will of his wife, a woman of great sense and discernment. It is said that this was the first time that he neglected her advice, with the result that will appear.

The Bank was started (as we are told) by the shopkeepers and landowners of Tonbridge and the neighbourhood, who had no outlet for their savings except the purchase of land, Government stock and enterprises of the nature of the South Sea Bubble. The traders supplied the greater part of the funds, the gentry lent their patronage. In some places the arrangement worked very well, though in others failure was the inevitable result of the lack of experience or the employment of unbusinesslike methods.

At Tonbridge, where the movement was fostered very largely by the Scoones family, the Tonbridge solicitors, the Bank had reached a very unfortunate stage. The Major was exactly the man they wanted; he became a partner. He brought a considerable accession of capital and infused new blood into the concern. His

(m) *Reminiscences of an Old Sportsman*, published January, 1909, by Eveleigh Nash, enlivened by several "family" anecdotes and enriched with twenty-four illustrations.

family was possessed of great local influence, and he was well calculated to buttress up a decayed and tottering institution. The principal partner at the time was George Children of Ferox Hall, Chairman of the Tonbridge Magistrates, and a large landed proprietor; in these capacities he was widely honoured and respected, but as bankers both he and W. F. Woodgate must have been alike inexperienced and incapable.

The first we hear of the Bank was in 1797. In March of that year there was a meeting of the gentry, yeomanry, tradesmen, and inhabitants of Tonbridge and the neighbourhood at the Rose and Crown, under the chairmanship of Edward Hussey, to consider how to prevent embarrassment to public credit from the effects of ill founded and exaggerated alarms, and to support it with the utmost exertions at that juncture. The week before a similar meeting had been held at Canterbury, and other such meetings were held at Sandwich and elsewhere throughout the country. The meeting passed four resolutions:—

Firstly, “that we have the firmest conviction of the validity and security of the Bank of England, and that any attempt to check or frustrate the free circulation of its bills or notes will be highly injurious to agriculture, trade and commerce.”

Secondly (unanimously), “that we the undersigned, being highly sensible how necessary the preservation of public credit is at this time, do hereby declare our approbation of the measures taken by the Bank of England to secure it, namely the forbearance to issue at present any cash in payment.”

Thirdly (unanimously), “that as it may be expedient for the Bank in this town to adopt a similar measure, we do declare that we will receive Bank Notes, or the notes of Messrs. Children, Woodgate and Scoones, in payment of any sum of money to us, and that we will use our utmost endeavours to make all our payments in the same manner.”

Fourthly, “that it is our opinion, at this time, it will be a great convenience to the town and neighbourhood if Messrs. Children & Co. issue notes of smaller amount than five guineas, and we recommend notes of one guinea.”

The Woodgate partner of this time must have been William Woodgate of Summerhill.

In 1807 the Bank was in a critical condition, but difficulties were for the time smoothed over. At the end of 1809 a scheme was suggested under which Mr. Children should sell all his Kentish property, release himself from every liability connected with the Bank, and purchase a new estate in Devonshire. If he had done this, he would have had a handsome surplus, but difficulties were again smoothed over for the time being. Three years later the Bank suspended its payments. There had been no rapid or sudden ruin; for a number of years it had gone from bad to worse, its affairs had become more and more involved, and even in 1812 the full meaning of the stoppage was realized by none. Here be it said that of this melancholy period we have much vague report and little solid material; most of our evidence is collected from the Children memoirs, whose views are necessarily out of sympathy with the Major. Those who lived at the time, and are now long since dead, considered the subject so painful that they refused to discuss it.

The crisis was announced by Mr. Children to Sir Nash Grose in the following letter:—

“My dear Friend,

I have but time to inform you that on the fullest consideration, assisted by Major Woodgate's friends Mr. Pott and Mr. Allnutt, we have resolved to put a stop to our bank concern, and we shut up our doors to-morrow. You will be sorry to hear that it has been a very losing as well as troublesome business. The amount of loss I cannot yet ascertain; but there was no chance of making it less by going on longer, if we could have done so. I shall not return to Town at present, and John G.

will I believe come down to-morrow and Anna with him. You will see an advertisement in the papers on Tuesday for a meeting of our creditors at the Town Hall here to-morrow se'nnight. You will not suppose I am in very good spirits or very well, but I am ever most faithfully and affectionately yours
 Tunbridge, Dec. 6th, 1812. Geo. Children."

This meeting duly took place on the 14th December, in the same hall that William Woodgate had presented to the town. There was a numerous attendance. It appeared that the estates of the partners consisted almost wholly of landed property which it would require time to dispose of, in order to enable them to discharge the demands of their creditors. It was unanimously resolved by those present to accept their respective debts, with interest, by four instalments at 6, 12, 18 and 24 months from the 7th December. Also that £1 and £2 notes of the Bank should be continued and received in circulation until the first instalment should be paid.

The Major began to sell off some of his outlying property, perhaps even the Castle; but the idea of selling Summerhill did not once occur to him. It is said that he refused the most tempting offers to purchase on behalf of the nation, which desired to present Summerhill to the Duke of Wellington, a fitting acknowledgment of his great services.

Mr. Children's Solicitors, Scoones & Son, instructed Murrell & Wilson to offer some of his property in Tonbridge and Leigh at the Auction Mart in March, 1813, in twelve lots, comprising together 1,400 acres. It included the Manor of Datchhurst or Hadlow Place, abundantly stocked with game; the Manor Farm of Barnets with capital new house a short distance from the Turnpike road; and seven other farms lying contiguous, in most cases held by distinct titles. In 1815, Children attempted to sell a capital new Mansion House called the Mount (nearly completed), two miles from Tonbridge, at a short distance from the Turnpike, and six farms containing together 700a. in a ring fence.

In 1816 the end came, and the Bank was found to be utterly ruined, involving both the partners in irretrievable disaster. For the first time the Major realised that Summerhill had to be sold. The shock of this news was so great that Mrs. Woodgate, on receipt of it, immediately became very ill; but all put on a brave front, and under these most trying circumstances conducted themselves with fortitude and resolution. We have a letter written by Mary Ann Humphry to her sister Julia in 1816 when the news first became known:—

"We hear Mrs. Woodgate was only made acquainted with the Major's determination to sell Summer Hill about a fortnight since. Mr. Allnutt had the unpleasant task of imparting it to her. The intelligence affected her so much that she was taken ill immediately; she now appears quite recovered. I drank tea at Summer Hill last night with the Thomas', and was surprised to meet a large party, the Knox's, Childrens, Burtons &c. Mrs. Woodgate exerted herself and endeavoured to appear in spirits, but we evidently observed at times a great depression."

A commission of Bankruptcy under the great Seal, bearing date at Westminster, 6th February, 1816, was issued against the Major to Henry Hebbings, Jefferies Spranger, William Paley, John Beamlech, and Henry Wrottesley. The Major was summoned to appear at the Guildhall in February, 1816; Mr. Sudlow of Monument Yard was his Attorney. George Children, Thomas Mercer, and John Batlow, all of Tonbridge, Bankers, were summoned to appear in May; their Attorney was E. Grose Smith of Finsbury Square. At this meeting, the major part of the creditors who had proved their debts nominated John Hartup West of Tonbridge, Richard Allnutt of Penshurst and William Day of Gracechurch Street, Oil Merchant, assignees of W. F. Woodgate's estate, which was accordingly conveyed to them on 27th February, 1816, upon trust for sale and division.

The following advertisement therefore appeared in due course for the sale by auction of a "Capital freehold Mansion, Park, Manor and Farms" by Messrs.

Crawter, at Garraway's Coffee House, Change Alley, Cornhill, London, on Wednesday, the 14th of August at 12 o'clock.

"The extensive, valuable and capital domain of Somerhill, near Tonbridge, in the County of Kent, comprising the magnificent mansion house suitable in splendour and elegance for the residence of a family of the first rank, with numerous and convenient offices of every description, situate on a commanding eminence, within the park containing 560 acres, ornamented with stately and beautiful timber. The range of valuable and contiguous farms of rich and highly cultivated ground, extending from the town of Tonbridge, on both sides of the Turnpike road leading from London to Hastings for the space of about four miles, the whole comprising upwards of about 2,500 acres, is distant from London 32 miles. Also the Manor or reputed Manor of South Frith, extending over a large tract of land abounding in game, with all the appurtenances and incidental royalties and immunities belonging thereto.

Particulars and tickets to view to be had of Mr. Allnutt or J. H. West ; Sudlow, Francis & Urquhart, Solicitors, Monument Yard ; Messrs. Crawter, Cobham, and at Thanet Place, Temple Bar, London. Also of Mr. Allen, the Steward at Summerhill; and at the principal libraries in the different towns."

At the same time, *Green Trees* and *Ferox Hall* were offered for sale (see p. 311), together with the remaining Children property unsold, *i.e.* The Mount and 110 acres, part of the Manor Farm called Barnet and 133 acres, Ramhurst Farm and 231 acres, Old Hop Garden Farm and 60 acres, Meopham Bank Farm and 50 acres, and several cottages, etc.—the whole comprising about 620 acres, including Bordyke House, and several houses in Tonbridge. It is significant that none of the parties, until 1816, had offered his house and home estate for sale.

Before we finally take leave of Summerhill, we must briefly consider its then state. The Major had made great alterations on his accession, and adapted it to modern ideas of convenience. Sir Bernard Burke, who visited it in Mr. Alexander's time, has left his account of it on record :—

"The Mansion stands upon a beautiful eminence in the northern part of the grounds, amid extensive Woodlands. It is of considerable size, and although it has been partly rebuilt and much repaired, preserves not a little of its fine old character. The large bay windows are still retained, a feature of so much importance in a country residence, and which so well accords with the Elizabethan style, though totally at variance with Greek or Roman architecture. Much too is added to the picturesque effect of the whole by the pointed gables and ornamental chimneys. The principal front is the West, overlooking the town of Tunbridge and a beautiful country. From a turret in the Court of the North side of the house are seen the Canterbury Hills near Dover, at a distance of about 50 miles. This view however and the several objects comprised in it are best enjoyed from a rising hill on which grow two large beeches, ("the two beeches that crown Summerhill" mentioned in Mr. Children's poem), at a little distance southward from the house." After a suitable eulogy on Mr. Alexander, he proceeds, "The library in particular is a noble room executed from the designs of Sir Jeffrey Wyatville. It extends the whole depth of the house, being one hundred feet in length, with eight columns, and lighted by five bay windows, which from their unusual number produce a singular effect. There is a tradition still believed by many that Charles II held his court here when he and his Queen visited Tunbridge Wells in 1664. But this rests upon too slight a foundation to be received in direct opposition to the testimony of Count de Grammont, who being one of the party at the time could hardly have been mistaken on a point so simple. 'Lady Muskerry and Miss Hamilton,' says the gay narrator, 'were at Summerhill, having left the melancholy residence of Peckham. They went every day to Court or the Court came to them.' So far as the Count is concerned, nothing can be plainer or more decisive than his evidence, and it is not difficult to understand how the frequency of the royal visits to Summerhill should have given rise to a report that Charles and his Queen held their Court within its walls."

Oliver Cromwell, too, paid Summerhill the distinction of a visit and slept there ; and the Princess Victoria made an express visit to the place when she was in the neighbourhood.

Summerhill is commemorated in verse by the Rev. Richard Harris Barham, author of the Ingoldsby legends. Extracts are given below, but the full verses are to be found in Mr. Barham's Life.

"O Summer Hill ; if thou wert mine
I'd order in a pipe of wine
And ask a dozen friends to dine ;
In faith I would not spare the guineas,
But send for Pag and other ninnies,
Flutes, hautboys, fiddles, pipes, and tabors,
Hussars with moustaches and sabres,
Quadrilles and that grand waltz of Weber's,
And give a dance to all my neighbours.
And here I'd sit and quaff my fill
Among the trees of Summerhill ;
Then with bland eye careering slowly
O'er bush-crowned ridge and valley lowly,
I'd drain the cup to thee, old Rowley [Charles II],
To thee and to thy courtly train
Once tenants of thy fair domain.

* * *

O Alexander, loftier far,
Now culminates thy happier star
Than his of old, my ancient crony,
Thy namesake erst of Macedony,
Unrivalled, save perhaps by Bony.
Oh, happier far in thy degree
Art thou, although a conqueror he
While thou art but an ex-M.P.
Yea, far more blessed, my Alexander,
Art thou than that deceased commander ;
Much though his name be honoured, Fate
Making thee Lord of this estate
Dubbed thee in verity "the Great."

* * *

Another world thou dost not sigh
To conquer, much less *pipe thine eye*
I dare be sworn—No ! Alexander,
Thou art not half so great a gander.
This is thy globe, here toujours gai
Thy motto still, though, well-a-day
Sarum be popp'd in Schedule A.
O, Summer, Summer, Summer Hill,
Fain would I gaze and linger still ;
But see, the moon her silver lamp
Uprears, the grass is getting damp ;
And hark, the curfew's parting knell
Is tolled by Doctor Knox's bell !
I go to join my wife and daughters
Drinking these nasty flavoured waters.
O Summer Hill ! I must repine,
Thou art not, never can be mine !
I have not even got the wine."

Mr. James Alexander was an East Indian Director of enormous wealth, but fell under the ban that attended the owner of Summerhill, lost the greater part of his money and was obliged to sell the place to the late Sir Julian Goldsmid, for many years M.P. for the Rochester Division. At his death the estate passed to the present possessor, Mr. E. O. D'Avigdor-Goldsmid. There are some ancient wooden four-posters at Summerhill still preserved, with the Woodgate name carved underneath; and some of the leaden spouts in front of the house are ornamented with various names and dates, carved by different members of the family before they came to ripen years.

Summerhill was sold to Mr. Alexander at a time when prices were low; after the long war peace had been declared, and an universal panic had set in, involving house after house in the general ruin throughout the country. Even then the worst was not fully realized; many supposed that the Major would still have sufficient to pass the rest of his days, if not in affluence, at least in ease and comfort. William Ozias Humphry writes on 15th August, 1816:—

“I see by the papers that Summerhill was to be sold yesterday; pray inform us when you write all you have heard about it, for I shall be anxious to hear that it has fetched a good price so as to leave the poor Major a decent competence after the liquidation of his debts.”

The wine was sold separately. It may be safely imagined that after 1812, until the position of his affairs became better known to him, the Major had refrained from stocking much wine, though we know, and Miss Humphry's letter shows, that he had not ceased to entertain; what was sold must therefore have been merely the residue of what the cellars contained. Nevertheless, the Sale catalogue displays an astonishing quantity. The sale was to have been held on the 22nd October, 1816, at the Rose and Crown, Tonbridge, at eleven o'clock.

“All the capital stock of genuine and superior choice wines in the cellars of the Mansion House of Somerhill, Tonbridge, comprising:—

	2	hogsheads of	Claret.
	1	„	Preignac.
	1	„	Vin de grave.
Upwards of	300	dozen	Port.
	100	„	Claret.
	80	„	Madeira.
	20	„	Sherry.
	70	„	Various,

consisting of Burgundy, Barsac, Val de Poena, Grape and Orange. Also about 200 dozen empty bottles and magnums.”

When it is considered that the above list includes nearly 6,000 bottles and four hogsheads, we are able to form some idea of the scale of hospitality which the Major thought necessary to maintain. Some idea of the size of the cellars may be gathered from the fact that the Major—so it is said—drove a carriage and four round them for a wager.

There was also a sale of the effects at Summerhill. There are many relics, pieces of plate, linen, china, etc., still in the family that were saved from the wreck, but most of the furniture and effects were sold. Some things were bought in by the family. Some of the family pictures, that is to say of the generation then living, such as Maria West and Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove, were taken away; but all the remainder, with one or two trifling exceptions, including the portraits of all the Woodgates of Stonewall and the early Summerhill days have vanished. There is a tradition that the family portraits were collected together into a great heap before Summerhill and burnt, and some have improved on this by saying that the *Woodgates* did this, rather than allow them to fall into the hands of strangers. The probability is that the tradition is perfectly correct, but that the *agents* of destruction

were the purchasers, the Alexanders. We know for a fact that a great many of the books were left at Summerhill, and were there until lately ; for all we know they are there now. Doubtless the pictures which were not wanted were also left ; and, being quite uninteresting to the Alexanders and not considered valuable as works of art, were burnt by the new-comers. This disaster was in its nature irreparable.

At Pembury, of course, and Spring Grove, some few portraits were preserved, but only of the contemporary generation ; at the latter the number did not exceed a dozen large paintings and a few miniatures more. It is just possible that some of the older pictures are at this moment scattered about the neighbourhood, in country houses, farms, and second-hand shops.

On 17th November, 1821, there was a meeting of the creditors at the Rose and Crown for the purpose of arranging the ultimate disposal of certain parts of the household furniture and effects of the Major remaining unsold, and deciding whether the same should be sold publicly or by private contract, or whether they might be taken by the family without payment.

The affairs of the Bank were vested in assignees. Peter Nouaille and Mr. A. B. Valle were Mr. Children's trustees. At the time the Bank stopped payment, as we learn from the Children Memoirs, Mr. Children was debtor to a large amount on his account with the bank and "another partner" debtor to the bank more than twice as much. He had entered into several joint obligations ; for instance, Rose Woodgate had lent £3,000 upon the joint bond of Mr. Children and Mr. Woodgate. When the partners failed, the holders of these joint securities naturally came in to prove under each commission for what they could get. He complains that "from the holders of joint securities from the partners of the Bank having come in to prove under the separate commission against him, more than three fourths of his assets were absorbed and his personal creditors, instead of receiving their twenty shillings in the pound, were obliged to take only an equal dividend with them." He adds : "that these debts, or any part of them, are not mine to pay, I suspect is already pretty well understood. Those debts are purely and entirely debts of the bank ; they were for money and stock borrowed for the support of the bank when it was under difficulties, and were all applied solely to the use of the bank ; out of the bank funds therefore they ought to have been repaid. . . . The hardship upon me (or rather upon my personal creditors) to be obliged to pay any part of them is most evident. I cannot however deny the legal right of the holders to come upon me for what they can get, nor do I complain of them having thought fit to exert that right. I can only say it produces that defalcation from my assets which I did not foresee, and thus falsifies the assurance I most honestly gave my own creditors, that they would lose nothing by me."

Of course, Mr. Children was mistaken in supposing that no part of the debts were his to pay ; the money was borrowed for support of the Bank, and the proprietors made themselves liable ; the proprietors, of whom Mr. Children was one, were therefore responsible. It was an admitted hardship, but everything that he can say might have been urged with equal force by the Major, who had an additional grievance, that he was drawn in to bolster up a rotten and decayed concern. If Mr. Children had realized his property and retired in 1810, as he had been urged to do, he would have had, at the very least, a clear surplus of £70,000. As it was, it sold very ill and was not sufficient to discharge his debts and the liabilities of the Bank ; in 1820 a first dividend out of his estate was paid of five shillings in the pound, and later on a second dividend at the rate of two shillings ; whether anything else was ever paid we do not know. The Childrens were people of great wealth ; but the Major's property was larger, and it is obvious that he might have realized in 1810 and withdrawn with a still greater surplus. Mr. Children was justly beloved and respected in all the neighbourhood of Tonbridge ; and it is due to his memory to say that a more perfectly upright man never walked.

It was not only the Major who was involved in this unfortunate affair ; his relations were all more or less nearly concerned. Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove was severely hit ; and though he managed to retain his lands, clear of mortgages and unsold, he lost very heavily*. John Woodgate of Stonewall was no less affected, and we cannot imagine that Stephen altogether escaped, nor the Nouailles and Allnutts, nor even Rose Woodgate ; for she had lent money to the extent of nearly £7,000, some of which she voluntarily agreed to forego in favour of the Major. In 1821 she bought up the small outstanding interests of the Major and his brothers in the Moat ; the Major's share came to about £500. The following authority to pay over the purchase money was addressed to her by J. H. West.

" Dear Madam,

The money due to the assignees of Mr. Wm. F. Woodgate for his share of the Moat Farm &c as also that due to Mr. John Woodgate, you will be kind enough to pay to Mr. William Woodgate, and his receipt will be quite sufficient, and am, Madam, Very truly yours

J. H. West.

Postern, Nov. 17, 1821."

This Mr. William Woodgate was the Major's eldest son.

There was one striking distinction between the case of the Childrens and Woodgates. Both lost nearly all their money, but Mr. Children had an only son who was grown up and possessed of independent means, fully capable of maintaining his father and himself in comfort ; the Major had a numerous family of ten children, of whom the eldest, Frances, had but just married Dr. Thomas Knox, of Tonbridge School, and she was not yet twenty-one.

The Major and his wife left Tonbridge and resided first at Edinburgh and then in France, though the Major from time to time paid long visits to his friends in Kent. The children were taken charge of by various relatives, chiefly the Allnutts, and brought up by them. Of all the Major's numerous relations, none proved themselves at this time so valuable as the Allnutts and Lord Hardinge ; the former with one accord exerted themselves to afford whatever assistance they could, and the latter by his influence and patronage so generously exercised secured for the family excellent positions in the War Office, cadetships in India, and similar openings.

In November, 1819, Julia Humphry was staying with her aunt Rose Woodgate at Tonbridge, when she met the Major who was staying at Pembury. She writes on the 24th :—

" Major Woodgate remains in this part of the country till after Christmas ; Anna came from Brighton last week to give her Father a meeting"; and five days later she writes :—

" I dined with Mrs. Charles Hardinge the week before last with Major Woodgate, Stephen, and Mr. John Scoones. The Major retains his enthusiastic fondness of musick, & I never saw him in better spirits, which do not appear forced but quite natural."

In February the next year, Miss Humphry writes from Tonbridge that she would continue to stay with her aunt, who felt unequal to the transaction of some business she had on hand in connection with the Moat, and that " it has been intimated to her that she will probably soon receive the offer of a *compromise* for the money owing to her by the Major, but which I will thank you not to mention at present." In March she writes :—

" I am sorry to say very little progress is made in the arrangement of my Aunt's affairs, & I begin to fear things will not very speedily be compromised. Mr. James West advises her not to appear anxious to come into their terms, as he thinks a little delay may be advantageous to her."



WILLIAM WOODGATE Esq. of Swaylands,

James West's desire was amply complied with ; there was a good deal of delay, for on April 10th, 1821, Mary Anne Humphry writes :—

“ Mr. Alexander came to Summer Hill yesterday. He wishes extremely to liquidate my Aunt's debt, as well as that of the other creditors, but *his* solicitors [Messrs. Brundrett & Co.] have requested the delay of a few days till some necessary instruments are signed. The loss is his, as the money is laying idle, & the creditors will receive interest to the day of payment. At the same time the delay is vexatious to all parties.”

The Major, at the time of his death, was living at Dunkirk. Miss Humphry writes to her sister, Lady Ashburnham, on 6th June, 1828 : “ Major Woodgate has been seriously ill with an inflammation on his chest. On hearing of his state, William, Rosa, and Frank immediately set out for Dunkirk. William returned on Monday, when he was considered better. Henry is now with him and he expresses the utmost comfort from the Society of his children.”

The illness evidently proved fatal, for on 1st July, 1828, Sir William Ashburnham writes, “ We were concerned to hear of the death of Major Woodgate, though from the reports of his illness we had reason to anticipate such an event.” Mrs. Woodgate had died at Edinburgh in the Major's lifetime. The Major's body was brought over from France and buried with much pomp in the family vault at Pembury.

The unfortunate Major, who brought down on himself such a terrible misfortune, effected the ruin of the family. The principal place, Summerhill, was irrecoverably gone ; and the younger branches at Stonewall and Pembury were all involved in the loss and ruin. Perhaps this explains in some way why the unlucky Major was recollected with such bitterness by his relations. His children for the most part acquitted themselves well in their struggle with the world.

It seems that there had been no marriage settlement of any kind of either his own or his wife's property, which all went into the general wreck, except a sum of £350 a year which was charged on Summerhill. This was the only property which the children inherited. A brief narration of their respective careers is here given.

I. William and Henry, the two eldest sons, were at Tonbridge School at the time of the final crash in 1816. William was about 17 years old. On hearing that Summerhill was to be given up, he showed that independence of spirit which characterised his subsequent career by immediately setting off to see Mr. Scott, a solicitor and a friend of the family, to see if he could help him to some employment. This was done entirely on his own initiative, without consulting any of the family. Mr. Scott had intended taking his own son into the business, but the son had set his heart on entering the army, and Mr. Scott was so pleased with William's spirit that he took him in instead. This son eventually became General Sir John Scott.

On 9th November, 1819 “ William Woodgate of Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, Esquire, aged 20, the son of William Francis Woodgate of Edinburgh ” was admitted to Lincolns Inn. He married in 1825 Harriet daughter of Lieut. Colonel James West of the Cadet Barracks, Woolwich. Her portrait was painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence and lately realized a record sum at Christie's (see p. 119). He lived at first in Guildford Street, within easy reach of Lincolns Inn, and in 1828 removed to Cumberland Terrace, Regents Park, where he remained until 1845 when he took up his residence at Swaylands—a charming house at the top of Rogue's Hill, Penshurst, built by himself to resemble a Summerhill in miniature.

Swaylands must have taken its name from the family of Swayland, though it is true that there was anciently land in Penshurst of the same name. It has been suggested that the justices in eyre sat on the spot and gave it the name. Mr. Woodgate sold Swaylands in 1859 to Mrs. Crupper, and settled for a short time at Clapham, from which he removed to 56, Prince's Square, Hyde Park, where he remained till

his death. Swaylands now belongs to the Drummonds and has been much added to: little of the original house remains.

Lord Hardinge entertained a profound admiration for Mr. Woodgate, whom he designated "the Wellington of Law," the highest praise he could bestow. He carried on business in partnership with Mr. Currie, at 32, Lincolns Inn Fields, demolished a few years ago to make room for the ugly Land Registry. The firm was subsequently joined by Mr. William Williams, who was admitted a solicitor in 1839 and died in 1907, one of the oldest and most highly respected solicitors in London. We believe that Mr. Woodgate built and owned the Thatched House Club in St. James'.

Mr. Woodgate was a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, and Master of Barnards Inn, which was, we believe, sold under his direction. He occupied a high place in the profession, and died widely respected on 14th June, 1866, at his house in Prince's Square. He was buried at Fordcombe, a hamlet of Penshurst, whose church was built when Mr. Woodgate was at Swaylands; Lord Hardinge had defrayed half the cost and Mr. Woodgate had contributed very largely to the remainder. The illustration is from a photograph. Mr. Woodgate's typically English face and build is responsible for the well-known "John Bull" of cartoons; he sat for the original drawing.

II. We have been obliged with so excellent an account of Henry Woodgate, the second son, from one of his children, that we have inserted it just as it is, though rather exceeding the space we had intended to allot.

"Henry Arthur Woodgate, B.D., Rector of Belbroughton, was the second son of William Francis Woodgate of Somerhill. He was born at Tonbridge Castle, April 25th, 1801. After the old home at Somerhill was broken up, Henry Woodgate spent the remainder of his boyhood with his uncle Stephen Woodgate, Vicar of Pembury, attending Tonbridge Grammar School. At Pembury he formed his friendship with Mrs. S. Woodgate's family, the Hardinge's, eventually becoming curate to Sir Charles Hardinge and later marrying Maria Bradford, cousin to Lady Hardinge.

"At the age of sixteen he won a Scholarship at St. John's College, Oxford. In 1826 he took a First-class in Classics. He became Fellow and Tutor in his College, was three times Public Examiner 1827-8, Bampton Lecturer 1838, Select Preacher 1836-1838 and later 1865-6. During his career at Oxford he formed warm friendships especially with the leaders of the Oxford movement. Ruddy and of a fair countenance, musical, full of fun and humour, Mr. Mozley describes him as "the most popular man in Oxford.

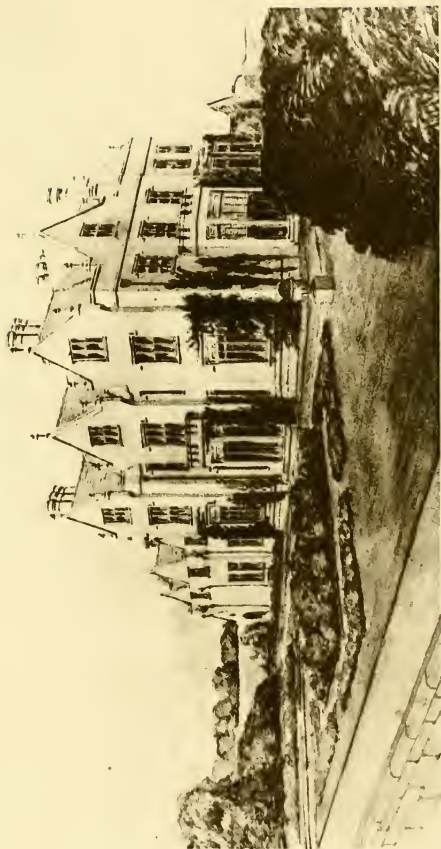
"He was ordained in 1824 and in course of time became curate in charge of Trinity Church, Tunbridge Wells, then a district of Tonbridge. In 1837 he was presented to the living of Belbroughton, a large country Parish in the gift of St. John's College. In 1838 he married Maria daughter of Captain Bradford, by whom he had ten children. His eldest son, Walter Bradford Woodgate of Brasenose, was the famous University oar; his second son Major General Sir Edward Woodgate fell on Spion Kop 1900. He was rightly described as "the militant son of a Militant Father," for Henry Woodgate was essentially militant (though not quarrelsome), throughout his life earnestly contending for "the Faith once delivered to the Saints."

"At Belbroughton he led the life of an active Parish Priest, diligently visiting the people of his large and scattered parish, at the same time taking a leading part in all Church and Diocesan work, being Rural Dean, Diocesan Inspector of Schools (in those days a voluntary work), Hon. Canon of Worcester and Proctor for Convocation. Convocation had in 1841 become a dead letter, the House only meeting to be peremptorily prorogued. The Worcestershire clergy were seriously considering whether it were worth while to elect a member to represent them. Mr. Woodgate however urged them that to give up the right of election would be to surrender



MRS. WILLIAM WOODGATE of Swaylands (formerly Harriott West).
From the painting by Sir Thomas Lawrence, P.R.A.





SWAYLANDS, Penshurst, the Seat of William Woodgate, Esq.

a principle. "Let us hold fast the rights of the Church," he pleaded, "even if we are not allowed to act." Who, asked the opposition, would care to undertake so thankless a task? "I will," was the prompt reply. He was elected Proctor and held that office until 1874.

"The history of Convocation, in which he played so large a part, shows how wise was this brave counsel. In all the momentous controversies of the day he took an active part, contending for the integrity of the Athanasian Creed, the Religious education of children, and protesting against the spoliation of the Church. His logical mind was prompt to see the principle at stake, his pen to defend it; his courage was equal to standing by it, regardless alike of popular clamour, of the frowns of those in high places or the appeals of friendship.

"So he stood firm when men's hearts were failing and leaders of thought were deserting the Church of England in despair. The secessions to Rome, numbering as they did some of his greatest friends, were a sore trial to him. Several of these had visited Belbroughton and preached in the old Parish Church; no wonder there was distrust and suspicion, and cries of "No Popery" arose. Mr. Woodgate met the aggrieved Parishioners with plain common-sense, joined to a touch of humour which disarmed the better disposed among them; then went on his way, careful not to give offence but refusing to yield an inch to popular clamour. He never swerved from his loyalty to his Church, or faltered in his affection for the friends who had thought it their duty to leave Her. His renewed intercourse with Dr. Newman was one of the greatest pleasures of his later years.

"Keenly as he could cut in controversy, he ever respected honest opponents. He hated shams while respecting honest Dissenters; for political ones he had an unbounded contempt. His old friend Mr. Gladstone, from whom in latter years he utterly differed, summed up his character: "I never," wrote the former, "when sending a subscription to the Woodgate brass in Worcester Cathedral, "subscribed to any thing with greater pleasure than I do to the memorial of one whom no considerations of personal interest or private friendship could induce to swerve from what he thought right."

"He loved children, and delighted in all beauty of sight and sound, especially that of vocal harmony. His harmonious choir, in which no instrument was allowed, was unique. In his younger days he was a bold rider, delighting in country life and knowing every inch of the country in which he dwelt.

"He fell, it may be truly said, in harness, on Christmas day 1873; he died April, 24th, 1874, on the eve of his seventy third birthday, and his parishioners mourned for him as for a common father. *Requiescat in pace*" (n).

III. John Woodgate, the third son, sought his fortunes in the Presidency of Madras. He was appointed Ensign on 13th February, 1821, and Lieutenant on 7th July, 1824. A life of great promise was cut short on 14th October, 1826; for he then died at Amherst town at the commencement of his career.

IV. Francis, the fourth son, was born at Tonbridge Castle on 4th October, 1808. When his father's household was broken up, he was brought up by his Aunt Allnutt at South Park. Lord Hardinge obtained him a post in the War Office when only sixteen or seventeen and he joined an expedition to Portugal. Francis Woodgate always maintained a warm friendship with Lord Hardinge. The latter had promised all Mr. Woodgate's four sons commissions in the army, and would have used his position as Commander-in-Chief to push their fortunes. Unfortunately he died (in the presence of the Queen) just before the eldest son, Harry, was ready to take up his commission; he accordingly entered the Indian army, in which Charles Hay Frewen procured him a commission, and the other sons followed different careers.

(n) Mr. Woodgate was the author of several works, notably *Woodgate's Historical Sermons*, in two volumes. A good deal of light is thrown on his career by the *Reminiscences* of his son, W. B. Woodgate.

On his return from Portugal he had assigned to him an official house in the Tower of London. He married in 1838 his cousin Clare Woodgate, daughter of Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove, who was living at Charts Edge, Westerham, with her mother Mrs. Streatfeild. Francis Woodgate used to ride down to see her, spend a night or two, and ride back early the next morning. At the time of the Chartist riots he was sworn in as a special constable.

After the marriage they lived for a few weeks with the John Allnutts at Clapham, while the house in the Tower was being prepared for them; but before many years the Tower house was burnt to the ground, when they removed to a place at Cowden, called Falconhurst. This was a small property consisting of a house and about forty acres of meadow land; the house was poor, but was beautifully restored and added to by Decimus Burton in the style of Spring Grove. Mr. Woodgate used to ride every day to London on horseback, and came back in the evening. It necessitated early hours, as the journey there and back must have been sixty miles; but in the summer Francis used to rise several hours before he started and amuse himself in the garden and on the farm, to which he was devoted. Eventually he found his daily ride too much of an exertion; he resigned his post in the War Office on a pension, sold Falconhurst, and removed in 1850 to Pembury to farm Spring Grove, his wife's property, containing from 500 to 600 acres.

Falconhurst has since been almost entirely rebuilt and much enlarged; it is now known as Claydene. During Mr. Woodgate's ownership, his neighbour the Hon. J. C. Talbot, Q.C., ran up a large mansion close by and requested permission to call it Falconhurst; Mr. Woodgate, very properly, declined, so Talbot dubbed his mansion, *pour rire*, "Little Falconhurst."

After the Woodgates sold the property, Mr. Talbot dropped the diminutive and his place is now known as Falconhurst *simpliciter*. The late owner (the Rt. Hon. J. G. Talbot, M.P. for Oxford University and Chairman of West Kent Quarter Sessions) died only this year, to the great loss not of Kent only, but of the country.

Spring Grove itself was let to the Miss Powells, aunts of Sir R. Baden-Powell the General, who used we believe to spend his holidays there. Mr. Woodgate accordingly took up his abode at Hawkwell Farm. His operations were most unsuccessful; bad crops and low prices made each year worse than the preceding one, and having lost the bulk of his capital he relinquished the farm in disgust and settled (eventually) at Effingham House, Dover, where he died in 1871. He was, like his brothers, a tall fine man, over six feet in height, in disposition reserved, a sound Churchman and staunch Tory, and devoted to country life. Immediately after he left Pembury, the Crimean War broke out; harvests were good and prices high, and in a very short time Richard Ashby the tenant, who had previously occupied the mill at Hawkwell, from almost nothing had amassed £20,000.

After his death, Mrs. Woodgate purchased No. 9, the Lawn, St. Leonards, where she died in 1894. Spring Grove was sold by the Trustees of the settlement in 1871 to the late Mr. Robert Tabor (father of Mr. Arthur Tabor of Cheam) on very advantageous terms. Mr. Tabor pulled down the old house and erected the present building, known as Hawkwell, which is a good deal larger than Spring Grove, but neither handsome nor beautiful. It now belongs to Mr. Mewbourne.

V. Decimus Woodgate, the fifth son, born 5th March, 1812, at Summerhill, was taken charge of, we believe, by the John Allnutts of Clapham. He was a man of large proportions; he measured six feet one and a half inches in height, and rode twenty stone. He entered the German Military service. In Germany he married Gertrude Beresam of Coblenz on the Rhine. He subsequently was employed in South Australia as a Government Surveyor, and was considered one of the best they had had. He thought nothing of riding seventy miles a day. He also had vineyards in Kangarilla. He died in 1875, leaving eight children, and was buried in the churchyard of St. George's, Meadows, a church which had been built largely through his efforts.

Of the daughters, Frances married in 1815 Dr. Thomas Knox, headmaster of Tonbridge. For further information of this family see *History of Tonbridge School*, and *Tonbridge School Register*.

Anna married Henry Buttanshaw of West Peckham, a manufacturer. It was not considered a very good alliance. She only lived one year after her marriage (o).

Maria, born 1803, resided with the John Allnutts at Clapham until her marriage with James Thomas in 1823. Mr. Thomas, of the Madras Civil Service, obtained his writership in 1812, in 1817 became second assistant to the Collector of Tinnevely, and rose by progressive steps until in 1837 he became Judge and Criminal Judge of Rajahmundras. He died in 1840 at Madras; his wife died at sea in 1833. There is a very good portrait of her by Sir Thomas Lawrence in the possession of her grandson Mr. James Woodgate Arbutnot of Elderslie, Surrey. There are also some miniatures of the family in the possession of Lady Robinson of Inverness Terrace, Maria Thomas' daughter, including a miniature of Maria Thomas by Sir Thomas Lawrence (p).

Rose, born 1806, was very tall and very handsome. She lived with her Aunt Garthwaite. She possessed a wonderful memory, and could repeat almost anything that she had once heard, whether prose or verse, without the least effort. She died in November, 1855. She had been to a party, and on her return complained of feeling unwell. Learning that she had been eating new bread, Mrs. Garthwaite attributed her pain to indigestion. Two or three nights afterwards she said to the nurse, "I feel as if I were going through the bed; I wish you would get me some beef-tea." When the nurse came back, she noticed a great change in her patient. She at once alarmed Mrs. Garthwaite, who came in hurriedly; in a few moments she was dead.

Julia, the youngest daughter, died in 1831 at Tunbridge Wells. There is a monument to her memory in Trinity Church.

- (o) The following inscription is on a tablet affixed to the north wall of West Peckham Church: "Near this place are deposited the remains of Anna the beloved wife of Henry Buttanshaw of this parish, and daughter of the late William Francis Woodgate Esq. of Summerhill. She died June 25th, 1829, aged 31 years, deeply lamented by her affectionate husband, who in commemoration of her many virtues and to perpetuate her memory has erected this tablet. In the same grave is also buried their infant son Henry, who died July 24th, 1829, aged 2 months."

- (p) The following is the only surviving letter from Maria Thomas, written, before her marriage, to the Humphrys at Seal.

"Clapham Common, Dec. 22nd, 1820.

My Dear Fanny

I often review with much pleasure the many very happy hours I spent under your roof; and I often think of the attentive audience I had when repeating my *reveries* and dreams, and the wish you then expressed to hear them. I have purchased a few of your favourites, which I hope you will accept for my sake. It had been my intention to have written both you and Mary Ann a long epistle, but I am afraid I shall not be able to manage it, as I expect my Uncle J. Allnut, who is to take the little packet to William, to call for it every minute. Tell Mary Ann she shall hear from me the next time an opportunity offers of sending a letter free. I have enclosed the Crayons and French Books I promised her.

How is your dear Mother? Give my kind love to her. I have laid in a fresh stock of Dreams, and I often would give anything to transport myself to your fire-side, when you are quite alone, and excite your risible faculties. Give my love to Julia. How does Mary Ann's French come on? I have been studying Astronomy since I have been at home, and I hope with a little success. Music comes on *à merveille*. Much against my inclinations I must now conclude, as my Uncle is waiting for my letter. You will do well if you can read this, but my pen is vile, and I must not stop to mend it; and believe me,

Your truly affectionate Friend and Cousin

Mary Woodgate.

Dites mille choses de ma part à Mary Anne."

The old house of South Park differed very substantially from the present building. It was admirably situated on rising ground, commanding a view of the village and grounds of Penhurst Place, and enjoyed a fine prospect in every direction. Mr. Allnutt was fortunate in his undertaking ; instead of the necessity of new plantations, his only task was the exercise of judgment in thinning the woods already standing, and removing sufficient timber to open out views.

The following lines were written in 1796 by Mrs. Allnutt's sister, Ann Woodgate, on Mrs. Allnutt refusing to give her a subject for some verses ; it was before the birth of Mrs. Allnutt's first child :—

“ How cross were you, Fan,
 To deny me, (poor Nan)
 The theme which I asked you to give ;
 How much I was vex'd,
 Chagrined and perplex'd,
 I ne'er shall forget while I live.
 But why should I take it as such an ill thing,
 Since a *subject* you have ne'er given, e'en to the King ? ”

Richard Allnutt was one of those who came forward in the defence of his country in 1803, when Napoleon was threatening England with invasion ; and proffered his services. He was made Captain of a Troop of the West Kent Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry, and had for his Lieutenant his friend and neighbour James Harbroe of Hall Place, Leigh. His sabre is still preserved by his descendants.

The events leading up to Mr. Allnutt's marriage are described in verse (see p. 328). One of the earliest references to the Allnutt in the family letters is contained in a letter of Maria Woodgate of June, 1800.

“ There has been a sad rumpus at South Park. Mr. Allnutt has found out that in his absence the servants acted high life below stairs, and were not contented with giving their guests dinner tea and supper, but extended the invitation to *beds*.

John Allnutt of Clapham, the second son, b. 23rd February, 1773, m. 7th July, 1796, Elizabeth eldest daughter of John Dounce Garthwaite of Shackleford Hall, Surrey, who d. December, 1810 (Monument in Salisbury Cathedral) leaving

1. a son, b. and d. 1797.
2. a son, b. and d. 1799.
3. Anna, b. 1801, d. 1828, unm.
4. *John*, of whom presently.

Mr. Allnutt married secondly Eleanor, daughter of Samuel Brandram of Lee, Kent (b. 1789, d. at Clapham 21st March, 1866), and had issue by her

5. Eleanor, b. 1816, d. unm.
6. Jane, b. 1818, m. 1845 Henry Carr (b. 1817, d. 1888) and died in 1845, s.p.

Mr. Allnutt died at Clapham, 12th January, 1863, was buried at Norwood, and was succeeded by his son

John Allnutt of Charles Street, Berkeley Square, b. 1803, m. 1st in 1838, Elizabeth Harriet, dau. of John Fassett Burnet of May Place, Crayford, Kent (b. 1819, d. 1843) and had issue

1. Anna, b. 1839, m. 9th October, 1860, the Right Hon. Lord Brassey, of Normanhurst, Sussex ; Lady Brassey d. 14th September, 1887, leaving issue
 - (a) Thomas Allnutt Brassey, m. Lady Idina Nevill, dau. of the Marquis of Abergavenny.
 - (b) Mabel Annie, m. Charles Augustus Egerton of Mountfield Court, Sussex (see p. 47).
 - (c) Constance Alberta, d. 24th June, 1873.
 - (d) Muriel Agnes, m. Earl Delawarr.
 - (e) Marie Adelaide, m. Freeman Freeman-Thomas, M.P., late Chief Liberal Whip.

Mr. Allnutt married secondly 24th April, 1862, Clementia, dau. of Richard Puckle. He d. 5th May, 1881, she 26th July, 1909, leaving

2. John Hay Allnutt, b. and died 1864.
3. Jane Raye Allnutt, b. 1865, d. 1873.
4. Violet Susan Allnutt, now living, m. 1888, Major Vicesimus Knox of Springhill, More-in-the-Marsh, grandson of Rev. Thomas Knox, D.D., and Frances his wife, the dau. of W. F. Woodgate of Summerhill ; they have issue, amongst others, Clementia Allnutt Knox and Vicesimus John Knox.

Having made this discovery the Squire is determined to make an example of them, and has given warning to the whole crew, Shoebridge, Bob, Richard and the few maids, so that next week we will have quite a new household."

Richard Allnutt was fond of all forms of sport. He possessed a hunting box at Sutton, from which the first Allnutt letter (except that on p. 348) was written:—

Dear Stephen,

"Sutton, Dec. 8th, 1800.

Maria told you in her last letter that you were not to expect to hear from me till I arrived here, which I did on Wednesday last. I brought with me my cook & housemaid, & left my dear Girls at Summerhill as I thought it was not worth while to bring them for a fortnight, but if I had imagined how very melancholy I should have been I certainly should have brought Fanny. From nine in the morning till half past four, if I was not an extreme *domestic Lady* & had a great many *resources* within myself, I should find some of the above mentioned hours rather of the dull order, & from tea till Supper, after the duties of the *Nursery* are performed, the *Males* generally take up the Newspaper or a Book. I really begin to think it will be well if my Tongue does not forget its office, for want of practice; but joking apart, I should not like to live at a hunting Box all the Season, for you know I am very fond of Society & never had the gift of that tame thing called *Taciturnity*. One thing I must tell you of; there are two or three Gentlemen in the Neighbourhood who now & then dine with us, which makes it sometimes tolerable. I believe I shall go to Town for a day or two e'er I return home, which will be a few days before Xmas, as Mr. Walter comes to us at that time. Now for the *Fish of Fishes* & my Nobby Cheese. I made thirty before I came away, & my *Maid* intended to make them as long as ever the Curd will come. I fancy I have made 400 lbs. Mr. Arthur [Pott] keeps house this time so that we are only on a Visit; after Xmas we shall be housekeepers on our own bottoms & I shall certainly bring the children. I suppose you have heard now all about John George; he will never come back again in a whole skin in my opinion. How very unfortunate Miss Scoones being taken so very ill at Eltham; poor thing, she has been extremely bad. Two days, I believe, they did not expect her to live & I am afraid it will be some time before she can be moved. I begin to think that there is something between Harry [Woodgate] & a *pleasant Month*. I watched them at the Concert & fancied that I saw something more than common but I *May* be mistaken. When I was at Summerhill I rode over to Spring Grove. Upon my word the House looks very clean & pretty & I think Harry's intended road through the Church Wood will be very delightful. I am sorry to hear what you say about Bob Shelly, but I won't give up my *good opinion* till I know for certain it is true. Nan is Still at Hastings with the Rideouts but returns by Xmas. So Sam [Nicoll] has been taken by the French! I hope they have lowered his proud spirit a little. The John Allnutts are Still at Brighton. I do not know of any news either in these parts or at home. so adieu.

Yours very affecly,

F. Allnutt.

I have just had a letter from Maria. The dear girls both well, but poor John has been at death's door. On Thursday he overfatigued himself with hunting on foot & was taken at Fairthorn in most violent convulsions which continued for five hours. Mr. Lutterell was much alarmed about him. He is now much better & was moved home on Saturday. If you write to me let it be early next week or I shall be gone."

John, who overfatigued himself, was probably Mrs. Allnutt's brother John Woodgate, afterwards of Stonewall but then living at Summerhill. Miss Scoones was a sister of Mrs. Thomas Allnutt; she was probably Charlotte, afterwards Mrs. Henry Streatfeild of Chidingstone. The next letter, written in 1801, also from Sutton, was in much gayer mood. It related a "rumpus" between the John Garthwaites and John Allnutts.

" Sutton, Sunday Eveng. [March 9th, 1801].

Many thanks, my Dear Stephen, for your kind attention in writing to me. I should have answered your epistle before, but I was not at home when it arrived, and you know when a Woman is in the Gay World (London) she has quite enough to do without writing letters unless they should be *Love Letters*; therefore as you are *only* my Brother, you of course stood no chance of my *favor* during my stay in the *Metropolis*. I return'd yesterday after a fortnight's visit to Castle Street. During my stay I was only three times in Public, once to the Play (Deaf & Dumb), once to the City Assembly and once to a Concert at the Crown & Anchor. The first I did not much like, the second I knew nobody, but the third entertained me much. Boman [Major Woodgate] gave me three tickets or you may be sure I should not have gone, as I have not been *bit by a Fiddle*, as *some people*, who you, and I, know. There has been a terrible *rumpus* in Mark Lane—perhaps you do not know that it has all been made up between the John Allnutts and the J. Garthwaites. Well, all has gone on vastly well and vastly happy for above two months, and the J. G.s were staying in Mark Lane, till last Tuesday, when the Gentlemen had high words and the J. G.s quitted the Mansion in Mark Lane in a *Tiff*. Mrs. J. Allnutt, being left quite alone, beg'd me to let Fanny (who has been staying with her above a fortnight) stay a few days longer as she said she should be so dull. I of course consented; poor Aunt John, I realy pity her to have a quarrel at this time (she expects to be Confined the first week next month). I have offered to be *head-nurse* on the occasion, and have no doubt but I shall be accepted. I hear Anna is very unwell with the Rheumatics, I hope nothing worse. J. G. Children a little bird told me is coming home. I saw Mrs. Harrison on Friday at Uncle John's [John Hooker], never was more shock'd in my life, she realy looks quite starved, and has not the remains of a pretty Woman. Edgar was likewise there. I have not seen him since he became a *Benedict*; he is very much withered and looks extremely ill. We expected Harry and John up for this last fortnight, but as they have neither of them made their Mrs. Duden, I thought it best to *George Depasso* their Memory a bit, so I wrote this Morning to them both and expect an answer by return of Post. Both your charming Nieces are well, Susan quite delighted to see her old Mum again; she put her little arms round my neck and Love'd me so heartily it would have done your two *good looking* Eyes good to have seen her. If you return to Summerhill before we leave this delightful place, hope you will give us some of your time, in your Way home; you will greatly admire our Situation. We are all well and send love &c &c

Yours very affecly.

F. Allnutt."

" Greatness, Wednesday Mornng

July 8, 1802.

My dear Stephen,

I know you will be extremely happy to hear that Ann has presented you with a Nephew. The joyful event took place on Monday morning at half past one o'Clock. The Saturday before, Mr. Allnutt and myself intended to ride up to dinner; well we had not got to Bids Bridge when we met Peter's man who brought a letter saying they were in hourly expectation of Ann's confinement. You may be sure I put my best foot foremost, but when we got near Uncle Stephen's it rained to such a degree that we were obliged to stop under a Lodge for nearly an hour. You may guess I was in a pretty fidgget. It was near five when we arrived. Well, Ann continued ill all that day, but thank God is now doing as well as possible. Poor Ben was in such a fuss, for she was afraid she should have been present, but the carriage which brought my Mother took Ben home. My Girls are on the Hill, all well. Since I have been here I have been Mrs. Lewin, owing I verily believe to the fright I was in; however Dr. Rheubarb and Dr. Candle has set me to rights. My Hub is gone to the Nomination at Maidstone to-day; they go a strong party from

Tonbridge. Young Peter is the very picture of Papa, so you may guess a Great *Beauty*, and there is no *Mark* on his nose, which you know Ann was much afraid of. Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille seem quite delighted with the little Stranger. I am sorry, among the many persons we had to write to, that you really was forgot till this Morning, the old saying "*out of sight, out of mind.*" I suppose you will be at home e'er long. I saw Frank [Woodgate of Riverhill] the other day and he said in about a fortnight we might expect you. What a terrible time the Whittakers have. I really have no patience with that old Fellow; I suppose you have heard he has turned Augustus out of doors, for what Cause I know not. I shall stay here about a fortnight longer, then Ben will take my place. I have no News to tell you of, so adieu. All friends well.

I am, dear Stephen,

Yours very affectely

F. Allnutt.

I have just received your letter for which many thanks, & as I have said all I had to say, you will excuse more at present from

Yours,

Hornsby."

The "old fellow" was none other than the Rev. John Whitaker of Pembury, whom Stephen was destined to succeed in two or three years. Frank Woodgate was at Christ Church, Oxford, at the same time that his cousin Stephen was at Trinity.

Several years must have elapsed between this and the succeeding letter, which was written by the eldest daughter to Maryanne Humphry at Seal :—

"Sunday Morn'g.

My dear Maryanne,

Most happy should we have been to pay our promised visit to Seal had it been in our power, but Susan is now staying with a friend at the Wells, & to-morrow I start for Huntingdon with Papa on a visit to Mr. Thos. Allnutt to meet Uncle & Aunt Garthwaite, whom we have not seen for many years. We intend being from home about a fortnight & on our return our house will be full of company for a short time, but we shall be quite disengaged after Michaelmas, if that time will suit you, & I can assure you we shall not stay for a second invitation. I have been suffering the last week with a most tremendous toothache; the pain however has been somewhat abated, since my face has swelled to the size of a $\frac{1}{2}$ loaf. Emily Sidney joins us all in kind love to *you*; *we* extend ours to the rest of your family. Believe me to remain, your affect cousin,

Fanny Allnutt."

In 1819 the Allnutts and Humphrys were the victims of a somewhat cruel hoax. Some one purported in Mrs. Humphry's name to present the Miss Allnutts with some expensive bonnets from Griffin's in Bond Street. The Allnutts were much pleased with the present, of which they were advised; but the bonnets failed to make their appearance. They wrote accordingly to Mary Anne Humphry :—

"Friday Night.

I need not tell you, my dear Maryanne, how astonished and gratified we were upon receiving your enclosed note from Bond Street. A messenger was immediately dispatched to meet the coaches on the Tonbridge road, when woe betide, he returned empty handed! Each succeeding day he has applied at the different Inns at the Wells, Tunbridge and Watts Cross, with as little success, and on Thursday I wrote to Griffin to enquire the particulars of how the box had been sent, directed &c. & I trust we shall receive them to-morrow, safe & beautiful. Our anxious wish to catch a glimpse of the bonnets before we thank'd you is the only excuse we can offer for the apparent negligence of the *circumstance*, which we trust you will represent to my aunt in as *favorable a point of view* as you can, accompanied with our best love & thanks, but she shall receive a note herself from me when they arrive.

We have completely dawdled our time away since we left Seal. The day after my return I went to the Postern with Aunt Maria & there compleated my ball finery, which had a very *striking effect*. The Ball was delightful, Stewards charming, & partners fascinating (N.B. the best in the room). We got home in pretty good time, but I am shocked to add Susan & I sat up talking to Aunt Maria till 8 o'clock! Since that event Major & Mrs. Forster &c have been with us, & as the season is too far advanced to partake of out-of-doors amusements, we have been fully employed in entertaining our Guests. The lateness of the hour obliges me to conclude thus hastily, & begging you to offer our affectionate love & thanks to my aunt for her kind recollection of us, you & Julia, accept the same from your loving cousins,

F. & S. Allnutt.

South Park, Decr. 10. $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 A.M.!!!!

P.S. My black & gold turban looks beautiful, & is very much admired."

Another two days brought no news, and a further note was sent.

"Sunday Mornng.

My dear Maryanne,

The Post is just arrived & no note from Miss Griffin. Might we trouble you to write to her & enquire by what coach she sent the Box &c? I really am quite shock'd to give you so much trouble, but I think the *circumstance* ought to be enquired into. With our united love &c. believe me, yours affec.

F. Allnutt."

Writing to Miss Humphry in December, Mrs. Humphry explains the situation at some length:—

"I must now tell you of a very foolish joke that has been played upon us & the Allnutts. Mary Ann last week received a letter purporting to come from Fanny Allnutt, to thank *me* for two most beautiful costly bonnets, sent as a present from me to herself & Susan; and the next morning a letter arrived from Miss Griffin, a Milliner in Bond Street, with a bill inclosed for two richly trimmed Parisian Bonnets with Plumes &c, the price ten pounds twelve shillings, desiring immediate payment. We treated it as a ridiculous joke & took no notice of it. On Sunday morning Mary Ann received a long letter from Fanny Allnutt & we find from her that they have been equally imposed on with ourselves, having received a letter in Mary Ann's name from Bond Street begging her & Susan's acceptance of two elegant bonnets, in consequence of which they sent their servant to meet all the Coaches the three following days, but not hearing any tydings they had written to Miss Griffin & likewise to Mary Ann to beg to know how the Boxes were directed. The latter wrote to her on Sunday assuring her we were entirely ignorant of the whole Transaction. I will explain it more fully when we meet; I am quite tired of relating this most *ridiculous transaction*, as I fear you & my sister will be in reading it.

Saturday: . . . The Miss Allnutts called on us on Thursday morning, they have really been most extremely ill-used. They drove up to Sevenoaks & walked over; I can't help feeling a good deal for them as I think they paid dearly for their visit. Mary Ann's Handwriting was imitated so exactly that it would have deceived any person. I must beg you not to mention this to any one, particularly the Family at River Hill, unless they have heard it."

The affair was sufficiently mortifying; but all ended well, by Mr. Nouaille giving the Miss Allnutts and Mary Anne Humphry two pounds each to purchase a bonnet.

The following letter, undated, is from Susan Allnutt:—

"South Park, April 2nd.

You must I am sure, my dear Maryanne, think me very remiss in not having answered your letter, but when I tell you how I have been employed the last two or three days you will not I hope accuse me of negligence. On Monday Papa and myself started for Brighton on horseback at a quarter past nine in the morning.

The first part of our journey was very wet, but with the assistance of Johnny's Great Coat over my habit, and an oil skin cover for my hat, I contrived to keep myself dry. I am sure you would have laughed to have seen me thus equipped; and above all Richard [the servant] behind with an immense pair of *saddle bags*. Fortunately about half way the day cleared up and the rest of the way was quite fine. We only rested half an hour on the road and reached Brighton at a quarter past four. I found Fanny quite well and, not expecting to see us, of course wonderfully surprised. We remained one day there and returned the next, and a most delightful excursion we had.

Yesterday a most extraordinary event took place here. Lord Derby's Stag Hounds hunted the Stag down into this country; we saw the stag pass our Park Gates and then into the Meadows and in about ten minutes I think not less than two hundred huntsmen with the Hounds in pursuit of him. I never saw such a beautiful sight as when they all came galloping down the hill from Penshurst, in scarlet and green coats; they really had a beautiful effect. The stag was taken at Mr. Jones' in his Park, and is to be sent for this morning. Three horses have died from over fatigue, indeed they were all nearly exhausted. I wish my dear Maryanne you had been here, I am sure you would have enjoyed it. Emily [Sidney] desires her love to you and is extremely obliged for the trouble you have taken in writing out the verses, which she thinks beautiful. Is there the least chance of our seeing you at the Easter Ball? I really have no more news to tell you. Will you give my love to Aunt Rose [Woodgate] and accept the same yourself, my dear Maryanne, from your affec. cousin,

Susanna Allnutt."

The Miss Allnutts and indeed all the family were admirable horsewomen. In 1816 the two sisters rode from Penshurst to Hastings, and returned after a stay of only a day or two. Unfortunately they both died early in life. They were returning from the New Year's Ball at Sevenoaks and the carriage stuck fast in a snow drift gathered at the foot of one of the Penshurst hills. Fanny insisted upon getting out into the snow, her feet protected only by white satin slippers, and caught a severe cold which terminated in consumption. We have an account of the ball by Mary Anne Humphry, who formed one of the Allnutts' party. It was about the time of "the hoax."

" Friday Evening, Jan. 7th, 1820.

My dear Fanny,

Our time has been a good deal engaged this week, or I should have given you an earlier account of the New Year's Ball, & probably before this you have heard many particulars from some of your Tunbridge friends. It was a very splendid assembly & the number about an hundred and ninety. As the fatigue of the evening was too much for my Mother to encounter, Julia & myself went early, to join Mrs. Allnutt's party who was so kind to *chaperone* us. We derived much amusement from seeing the company enter the room, for indeed so brilliant an assemblage in the country can be seldom witnessed. To make use of a newspaper phrase, among the *distinguished personages* present were Lord Camden and his two youngest daughters, Lady Harriet Neville, Lady Stanhope, Col. Stanhope, & Lord Charles Fitzroy, Lord & Lady Amherst, Miss Amherst, Mr. & Lady Harriet Clive, with a numerous party of friends. All the families in the neighbourhood were present, and numbers from different parts of the county too numerous to be enumerated. You will be surprized to hear Mr. Lane was there, being his first appearance in this neighbourhood since his disgrace. We thought him altered, & certainly not the same Mr. Lane who was considered one of the *leading beaux* of a Sevenoaks ball; John Woodgate & Sarah absented themselves, & under all circumstances this was surely a wise & prudent determination. You will perhaps like to hear who the belles were. Among the dancers, those whose opinions we have heard considered Susan Allnutt & Lady Caroline Pratt pre-eminent in beauty, & indeed among the

second class there was an unusual display of beauty. Miss Amherst is much improved & a very pretty dancer, tho' *too polite* to make much figure in a ball room. Mrs. Streatfeild, Mrs. C. Hardinge & Mrs. W. Lambard among the married ladies were the most admired for their personal attractions. Lady Georgiana Pratt & Mr. Clive began the dance. Lady Harriet Clive's dress was a pink & white gauze over white satten, ornamented with diamonds consisting of a superb tiara, necklace, earrings &c. The dancers were for the most part arrayed in white, composed of lace blonde & gauze, many of which were very elegant, & their effect improved by some few coloured dresses interspersed. The Heads were worn very high & the hair chiefly done in high bows & generally adorned with plumes of feathers or flowers. Julia's white satten was very elegant & much admired, but I am sorry to add its beauty is impaired by some red wine Mr. Henry Scoones had the misfortune to spill upon it. He seemed much mortified & chagrined, & on Wednesday morning came up from Tunbridge to express his great concern for the mischief he had occasioned."

Frances Allnutt died in 1820, and the following letter must have been written not long before that event :—

" South Park, Thursday.

Many thanks, my dear Julia [Humphry], for the beautiful Pincushion, which I assure you I consider the most useful piece of furniture in my work box. Poor dear Fanny also sends you her very best thanks for the elegant border which she thinks doubly valuable from it being your own work. She would have written herself, but alas she is unable. I grieve to say that although her appetite is better, and her perspirations not so violent, yet she is certainly thinner and weaker than when she left home ; still, none of the Physicians think unfavorably of her, therefore we must hope for the best, but she is sadly altered indeed.

I saw your sister Fanny frequently during my stay at the Postern ; I suppose you or Maryanne will soon take up your abode at Tunbridge [with Rose Woodgate, their aunt]. The intended weddings form a fine subject for conversation, the people really appear *awake* and *lively* which I am sure is not often the case there. I think without exception it is the most disagreeable place I know ; what say you ? Of course you had a full description of the Ball from Maryanne ; she looked uncommonly well and I really think she was the Belle. John Woodgate made a capital Steward, not so Mr. Rolls ; he came in very late, sat in a corner the whole evening and never opened his lips. Does your(?) still continue in favor ? I assure you I have heard several people say what an improvement it is to your *lovely countenance*. My time is so taken up with nursing that I have not time to add any more.

Would it be convenient to you, my dear Julia, to spend a few days with us in about a fortnight ? I mention that period as Mr. & Mrs. A. Pott [of Bentham Hill] are coming to us in a day or two. After they are gone we shall all be delighted to see you, and I am sure it will do Fanny good. Pray write soon and tell me you can come as soon as Mr. & Mrs. A. P. leave us. We all unite in kindest love to Aunt Humphry, dear Maryanne and yourself, and believe me, dearest Julia, ever your truly affectionate cousin,

Susanna Allnutt."

Susanna was so assiduous and devoted in her attendance upon her sister, that she herself caught the complaint. Frances was always considered good looking, but Susanna was a very great beauty. Frances died on 3rd July, 1820 ; Mrs. Humphry writes of her on May 7th : " I grieve most sincerely for the distress the poor Allnutts are in. We have only to pray for dear Fanny's speedy release. Poor Mrs. Nouaille keeps up her spirits pretty well on this melancholy occasion, and often drives down to comfort them."

On 11th June, Julia Humphry writes : " The accounts of poor Fanny Allnutt continue much the same ; indeed in the state in which she now languishes her death must be considered a happy release. The scene for some time must have been

most distressing to all the family. I hear poor Mrs. Allnutt is so much altered that you would hardly know her."

Susanna died at Brighton on 4th May, 1821. Mary Anne Humphry, who was staying at the time with her aunt Rose Woodgate at Tonbridge, writes of her on 10th April: "Mrs. Nouaille called at the door yesterday in her way to Brighton. She seemed to entertain no hope of any material amendment in poor Susan's health, and said her friends could only pray that her sufferings may not be much further prolonged. Poor Maria's health does not seem to improve, and the pain in her side has not given way to mercury, which has been applied externally. I should think the distress of poor Mrs. Allnutt can hardly be conceived at this time."

She writes again, on 21st May: "On Saturday I walked with Anne [Woodgate of Riverhill] to the Postern. Mrs. West [formerly Maria Woodgate] seems very dejected and deeply to feel the loss of poor Susan, probably increased by the distressing state of poor Mrs. Allnutt's feelings at this time. That fatal Thursday when she took her last look of her beloved Daughter quite upset her, & tho' now a little recovered, is in so weak a state as to faint away with the slightest exertion, & all thoughts of removing her to South Park are relinquished for the present. The soothing hand of time, with the aid of Religion, can alone mitigate the sorrows of this disconsolate Mother."

In November, 1821, Julia Humphry writes from Seal: "Mrs. Allnutt, Maria, and Anna Woodgate, [daughter of the Major] called on us last Tuesday; poor Mrs. Allnutt brought us two dresses which were made by her dear departed Daughters, and requested Maryanne and myself to accept them from the hand of their poor Mother, and wear them for the sake of those dear departed cousins who always entertained the greatest regard for us all. They are very handsome cloth dresses given to them by Mr. Robert Pott, and had only been once worn. I am sure we shall value them very much as a Remembrance of those to whom they once belonged. Mr. Allnutt is gone to Eltham to take lodgings, as South Park is considered too cold a situation for Maria to remain at during the winter.

The sisters were buried at Penshurst; and their deaths are recorded on a marble tablet on the North wall of the church.

"Near this place but without these walls repose the remains of two sisters, the daughters of Richard Allnutt Esq. and Frances his wife, of South Park in this parish. Frances Allnutt died July 3rd, 1820, aged 23. Susanna Allnutt died 4th May, 1821 aged 21.

"They were lovely and pleasant in their lives and in death they were not divided."

"If tender pity ever touched your breast,
Mourn for these much loved sisters, now at rest,
And with their sorrowing parents drop a tear
O'er every virtue which could life endear.
There is no balm to heal parental grief,
For worldly pleasures fail to yield relief.
Sweet filial love can never be forgot
And Rachel mourns her children who 'are not';
But deepest grief by Christian faith is cheered,
And Faith's the rock on which that hope is reared.
Hope points triumphantly to joys more sweet,
Where Faith has promised kindred souls shall meet.
Maternal love records their early doom,
O could her tears and prayers recall them from the tomb!"

From the last line but one, perhaps one is justified in supposing that the lines were written by Mrs. Allnutt. There are in existence three sets of verses written upon this subject by the Rev. Thomas May, for many years Vicar of Leigh, and an

intimate friend of the family. The first is entitled " Found on the trunk of a tree after the deaths of Frances and Susan Allnutt ; " space alone prevents our giving them all ; and the two last must serve as specimens :—

" Lines on the Tomb of
FRANCES and SUSAN ALLNUTT.

1

Spare what thou seest, for spoil will but increase
The bitter anguish of a Father's breast,
Whose greatest joy is thus to deck the tomb
And dress the green sod where his children rest.

2

The fragrant flowers, the fairest of their kind,
Restore to memory for ever dear
Some sweet bewitching grace of form or mind
And bloom the emblems of those buried here.

3

O'er these sad graves each gentle maid shall sigh,
And sorrowing raise her thoughts to Heav'n above ;
Oh gentle maid, may'st thou be spared to bless
With fond returns thine anxious parent's love."

The other verses are headed, " Found in a hermitage after the lamented deaths of Frances and Susan Allnutt."

Ah, why should the bitterest grief
Yet afflict the fond heart with its weight ?
In this Hermitage seek for relief
Where these graces so recently sate.
Past pleasures will never return ;
Those joys are now fled
Which their presence once shed ;
Our only resource is to mourn.
Let him who could carelessly roam
Amid these most hallowed shades,
There pause for awhile and bemoan
That beauty so speedily fades.
To their virtues our praises are due ;
So brightly they shone,
So soon are they gone,
We scarce can believe it is true."

The hermitage, of course, was the parsonage at Leigh.

Susanna Allnutt had become engaged to a gentleman whose alliance was disapproved by Mr. Allnutt on the score of insufficiency of fortune. He went to India, where he had obtained an appointment, and having realized a considerable sum returned to claim Miss Allnutt. He rode over in a heavy snow storm, and as he approached South Park beheld a funeral procession descending the drive. Upon enquiry he learnt that it was Miss Susan Allnutt's. Without a word, he turned his horse's head, rode back to the port, and returned in the first boat to India.

The following was written on the back of Mrs. Nouaille's letter to Julia Humphry, on her engagement in May, 1825, with her cousin Sir William Ashburnham. Mrs. Allnutt had just reached Greatness on a visit to the Nouailles*.

" My dear Julia,

Upon my arrival here this Morn'g I was made happy by a piece of most pleasing intelligence relative to *you*, and I cannot permit Mrs. Nouaille's letter to depart

* See Reference Sheet.

without taking the opportunity of offering (which I do from my heart) the sincerest congratulations. I shall hope to have the pleasure of seeing you on Tuesday and then personally to assure you of the regard and kindest love I bear to my Cousin Julia and all her Family. It was very sly in you not to give me a *hint* when I saw you at the Postern ; you have a Cousin who could not have kept such a thing a secret, but then I must say in every respect she is totally unlike my Cousin Julia.

Believe me, yours truly affectly

F. Allnutt."

In January, 1827, Rose Woodgate died at Tonbridge, leaving legacies, amongst others, of £100 each to her nieces Mrs. Allnutt, Mrs. Nouaille, and Mrs. West. The following letter was written on hearing of the legacy :—

"Saturday, Jany 13th, 1827.

My dear Cousin Fanny [Humphry].

The contents of your letter both surprised and gratified us. That our respected late Aunt should thus have considered us in her last will we shall remember with affectionate gratitude, and the Legacy is doubly welcome as being so totally unexpected.

You, our Cousin, have the great consolation of having so largely contributed in supporting & comforting the declining days of our venerable Aunt, a consolation which will yield you satisfaction to the latest period of your life, and rest assured you will be rewarded. We are all truly rejoiced to hear your excellent Mother bears up so well, and you will say every thing kind and affectionate to her on this occasion, and present our united love to her and the rest of the family. Mr. West is quite recovered from the effects of his late cold, which confined him to the house a whole week. The young Ladies are quite well, and all join in kind regards and best wishes to you and yours with your affecte Cousins

Frances Allnutt.

Maria West."

In November, 1827, Richard Allnutt was seriously affected with an abscess on his shoulder ; he was attended by Mr. Earl, son of Sir James Earl, twice a week but continued for some time in a precarious state. On the 21st, Mary Ann Humphry writes from German Place, Brighton, where she was passing several weeks :—

"I was happy to learn poor Mr. Allnutt is so resigned to his situation, & I fear the state of his constitution is such that he cannot long survive so serious an attack. He has frequently been an inmate at this House, where from his colloquial mirth he was a general favourite."

Mr. Allnutt had expired two days previously. A monument on the north wall at Penshurst records his death :—

"This tablet is erected to the memory of
Richard Allnutt Esq. of South Park in this Parish
who for more than 30 years most actively
discharged the duties of a Magistrate for this County.
He died Nov. 19th 1827, aged 55."

Henry Woodgate of Riverhill writes of him :—

"We are procuring our sables for poor Mr. Allnutt whose sufferings from every acct were most dreadful & shocking. He will be very much missed as a Magistrate & greatly lamented by many of his friends."

Lady Ashburnham writes about the same time :—

"Mr. & Mrs. West with Fanny came to Broomham yesterday to acquaint us with the termination of Mr. Allnutt's illness. Poor Mrs. Allnutt was to go to the Postern to day, & Mr. & Mrs. West leave Hastings to-morrow for the purpose of joining her there, as well as for Mr. West to attend the Funeral. Our cousin Fanny

[Woodgate] is to pass the interval of their absence at Broomham, & we shall be most happy in the pleasure of her company."

Mr. Allnutt was remarkable for the great kindness he invariably displayed towards those with whom he came in contact. His nephew Francis Woodgate, afterwards of Falconhurst, was brought up at South Park, and frequently testified to the kindness and consideration he then experienced. He took an active part in public affairs. He was a magistrate; was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the county in 1797; and was a Captain in the Yeomanry. He was continually attending public meetings, sitting on Grand Juries, and performing generally those useful tasks necessary for the transaction of the business of the county (c).

Mr. Charles Pott of Freeland, his first cousin, and Mrs. Allnutt were left executors of the will, by which the whole property was given to Mrs. Allnutt for life, and after her decease to Maria, with the exception of £4,000 which was left at Mrs. Allnutt's own disposal. Unfortunately Mr. Allnutt, whose openhanded generosity had addicted him to expenditure, had been guilty of extravagance, and had very much reduced the amount of his fortune. Under the circumstances, and there being no son to carry on the family, Mrs. Allnutt wisely decided to sell South Park, which required a large establishment, and build herself a smaller house on another part of the property. The last letter we have from South Park was written in 1830, and is addressed to Mrs. Humphry.

" S. Park, Thursday.

My dear Aunt,

I am very anxious to have the pleasure of seeing you at South Park, before it finally passes into other hands. If therefore you and my cousins will & can favor me with your company next week (name your own day) I shall be greatly obliged. I have plenty of room for your servants. I am desirous of shewing you my operations, and I may add *improvements*. The Nouailles have promised to come down again one day next week, cannot you contrive to come together? and the longer you stay with me the better I shall be pleased. Should you not feel inclined to favor me, perhaps you will allow my cousins to come; but I must add, they will be the more welcome if attended by their good Mother. Take all this into your gracious consideration, and if possible oblige your affect. Niece

Frances Allnutt."

The purchaser was Mr. Lloyd, who in less than ten years sold the place to Lord Hardinge. Miss Humphry, writing to Sir William Ashburnham on 3rd September, 1829, says:—

" I accompanied our friends the Nouailles yesterday to South Park to spend the day with Mrs. Allnutt. We passed the morning very agreeably in rambling about the grounds, & I do think Mr. Loyd is fortunate to be the possessor of so pretty a place. The spot Mrs. Allnutt has fixed on for her Cottage is most picturesque, & the surrounding scenery beautiful."

The next year the Allnutts paid a visit to Seal. Miss Humphry writes in April:—

" We found Mrs. Allnutt & Maria most agreeable inmates; they left us on Monday last for Greatness, since which we have seen them several times. They were to attend the Seven Oaks ball last night, and to day all the party dine at the Postern to meet Mr. & Mrs. Camac, & Mr. & Mrs. Brisco. On Monday last Maryanne accompanied Mrs. Allnutt to Penshurst to see her Cottage, which she admired exceedingly, and the following day the Greatness & Seal party, accompanied by Mr. Engleheart, assembled at Knole to go over the house; the weather was most propitious, & I never saw this fine old Place appear to greater advantage. Maria was much gratified, never having seen it before."

(c) His gamekeeper, appointed for the royalty of South Park, otherwise the royalties in the parishes of Penshurst, Leigh, and Tonbridge, was for many years James Durnall.

She writes the next month : " Mrs. Allnutt is still kept in a state of vexatious uncertainty & unable to pursue her plans, as Mrs. Pott intends to sue for a new trial in the Court of Kings Bench ; " but two months later she writes again :

" Mrs. Allnutt has gained her cause in the Court of Kings Bench, & I hope is relieved from further vexation on this score. On the day of her finally quitting South Park, she received intelligence of another piece of unexpected good fortune. Mr. Woodward who has been for some time on the continent informed her that his mother, who died in April last, had bequeathed to herself & daughter a legacy of three hundred pounds each. Mrs. Allnutt requested we might be acquainted with this circumstance, & at the same time begged it might not be mentioned out of her own family."

Mrs. Woodward was probably one of the Woodwards of Framfield, a descendant of Sarah Durrant, daughter of William Woodgate of Stonewall, and therefore distantly related to Mrs. Allnutt. Mrs. Allnutt's new house, " The Grove," was built after her own design by Decimus Burton. Though small, it was a very pretty red brick house, so arranged that it could easily be enlarged if necessary. The site was in a bend of the road which was formerly dissected by the turnpike, but Mrs. Allnutt obtained permission to alter the road's course. The garden and surroundings left nothing to be desired ; it is sufficient, perhaps, to say that their plan was arranged by Mrs. Allnutt herself. She displayed a wonderful knowledge and capacity in everything she attempted. Her advice on every subject was eagerly sought by her neighbours. Once being consulted by Lord Hardinge as to some plantations at South Park, she so impressed him with her capacity that he exclaimed, that, had she been a man, she would have been " a second Duke of Wellington." From one who considered the Duke as the beau ideal, this was indeed praise.

A visit to Mrs. Allnutt in 1837 is described in a letter of Miss Humphry. She says :—

" I passed my time most agreeably with my relatives and friends in Kent ; my visit to Mrs. Allnutt was of a most pleasing description. I never saw her beautiful Cottage, and the scenery of Penshurst, to greater advantage. The weather was delightful and each day Mrs. Allnutt took me a drive in her open carriage. Our first visit was to Capt. & Mrs. Streatfeild [Anne Woodgate] at Hever. One morning we passed at Tunbridge Wells and made several visits. Another we went to Cowden, Stone Wall, &c. My greatest gratification however was seeing the exquisite Pictures and beautiful gardens of Mr. Wells at Red Leaf, which far surpass any idea I had previously formed. His Gardens contain every thing rare and beautiful in the highest state of order and cultivation, indeed both nature and art have combined to render it the most attractive spot I have ever seen. Maria Allnutt is not in good health, and when I was there she experienced so much languor and debility as to be unequal to joining in any of these pleasurable excursions. She has painted some beautiful glass for the upper part of their drawing room window, and her music, drawings and works of various kinds evince much talent and perseverance."

One of Maria Allnutt's accomplishments was oriental tinting, in which she attained a very high degree of perfection, and many of her productions have been preserved by her sons. She married the Rev. George Richard Boissier, B.A., of Oakfields in Penshurst, who was for several years curate of Penshurst. Lady Ashburnham, writing on 29th August, 1838, says :—

" In Mrs. Nouaille's last letter she announces, at the request of Mrs. Allnutt, that a marriage is settled to take place between Mr. Boissier and our cousin Miss Allnutt. I hope it may be productive of happiness to the parties. Mr. Boissier is curate of Penshurst ; he is a widower with a small independent fortune."

In 1854 Miss Humphry died, and the following letter was written to Miss Nouaille at Broomham on the occasion. In order to explain it, one must know that Miss

Humphry had latterly resided with her sister Lady Ashburnham, who had just arranged for her nephews and nieces (the children of Sir John Ashburnham) to live with her at Broomham.

“ Saturday, Decr. 16th [1854].

My dear Ann [Nouaille],

Lucy's letter prepared us for the melancholy termination of our dear Cousin's attack. That her sufferings were not of long duration must in some degree mitigate the sorrow with which this severe blow must affect dear Lady A. She has indeed lost a most valuable sister and affectionate companion, and who was endeared to every member of the family. I will not write to Lady A. on this mournful occasion, but request you to convey to her my heartfelt sympathy, with every affectionate feeling towards her, and to express a hope that she will be supported from the only source from which it can flow, in unison with the attention and affection of those now to become part of her family.

We must all consider it a fortunate circumstance that every thing had been arranged for the family circle to be enlarged before this unexpected event took place, and I have no doubt but *all* will derive consolation from feeling the power to comfort and support each other. To the young people I send my best love, with the assurance that the domestic arrangement so lately made by Lady A. must conduce to the comfort and happiness of all parties. I shall be glad to hear again from you in a few days, and with again expressing my affectionate feeling to the whole circle believe me, your affect. Aunt

F. Allnutt.”

At this period of her life Mrs. Allnutt was in the full possession of every faculty. In 1857, when she was in her 85th year, Miss Nouaille writes of her :—

“ Aunt Allnutt is well, as you may conclude from her being at a Ball at Ashurst Park last Tuesday, and remaining till 2 o'clock in the morning, breakfasting the next day at the usual hour downstairs, and none the worse for her gaiety. I am sorry to say Mrs. Boissier has been very ill with an attack of bronchitis, the second she has had this winter. She is now a little better but still confined to her room, and I fear will require a good deal of care during the remainder of the winter.”

Four more letters are preserved, all dated 1857, and all addressed to Lady Ashburnham.

“ Saturday, Feby 20th, 1857.

My dear Cousin,

Since I wrote on the 10th Dr. Richardson from the Wells has visited our poor patient [Mr. Boissier] 4 times, and altho' he gives us no hope of permanent improvement, yet his remedies have had the effect of reducing the swelling in the legs, and also mitigating all the other symptoms, which were and are indicative of the complaint; we must however be thankful that the sufferings are so far reduced, that he can obtain some sleep during the night. He still remains on the sofa, not being able to lie in bed. Maria can now take rest in the adjoining room and of that she stood greatly in need. Mr. B. likes to see the neighbours when they call, it seems to cheer him up. He cannot take any solid food, but has something in small quantities every two or three hours. There is certainly an improvement in every respect, but not of a lasting quality. I had a letter from Fanny [Mrs. Frewen] the other day; she gave me the account of a severe attack she had of Influenza. *We* have all escaped that terrible complaint.

I have no family intelligence to communicate, excepting that William Woodgate [of Swaylands, Penshurst] is recovering, very slowly to be sure, but anything is better than going backward. *They* are with the Wardes at Horsted, the boys at school, and Ellen staying with Mrs. Streatfeild in the village here. I think I told you that Mrs. J. Allnutt was very ill; it has passed off and she is again in the drawing room. George Woodgate and his wife were over on Thursday: it was a bitterly cold day for an open

carriage, but Louisa did not seem to mind it. She reported well of her mother, brothers & sisters, and also of her own 7 children, a pretty good lot of them I think. I don't know how it is, but clergymen always appear to me to have such very large Families. Henry Woodgate has 10. I have not had any intelligence from Septimus ; is he still at Bohemia? Hastings always appears to agree with him, and the sea air to do him good. For the future you will consider that no news is good news. With my affect. Love to you & Julia [Humphry] I remain, your affect. cousin,
 Frances Allnutt."

"The Grove, July 8th, 1857.

My dear Cousin,

I was much concerned to learn from Ann Nouaille the unexpected failure of the Hastings Bank, and that you my good cousin are likely to be *defrauded* of some hundreds. I will hope however that may not be the case, but from all quarters we hear half Hastings and the surrounding farmers are ruined. This is the second Hastings Bank which has failed in my memory, for I was there when Ward's failed somewhere about 34 years since, be the same more or less. I hope by this time all your hay has been got up in good order, and plenty of it. I was fortunate enough to have my whole crop in the stack without a drop of rain, a fair average crop in excellent condition. Now I hope soon to have the pleasure of your company, and only wait for you to name the day. Any time after Thursday the 15th I shall be disengaged, and the sooner the better. I trust that your niece Julia Humphry will accompany you. I anticipate very sincere pleasure in having you once more under my own roof, and I will do my best to make you comfortable. I am thankful to say I am gradually improving in health ; still, the tiresome Erysipelas hangs about the forehead. However, I am told it will soon disappear altogether. When you favor me with your company, my carriage shall meet you at the Wells station, if you come from Broomham ; but if you come from London, then at our Penshurst station. Maria is quite well, but poor Allnutt [Boissier] has been suffering from that lowering complaint the hay fever, to which he is subject. I am happy to say he is recovering but he is not near so *heartly* as when at Hastings. However we must be thankful that he is enabled to join his companions in the healthy game of cricket. My dairy department is flourishing and the produce will increase when we get the after grass. Some of my neighbours are now deep in the haymaking, and the late showers during the day and storms at night have been injurious in many ways. All the wheat appears excellent, but alas ! there are hardly any apples. I shall not have 6 bushels, whereas I have gathered 362 bushels, but that was 4 or 5 years ago. With my kindest love, yours affectly

F. Allnutt."

Mrs. Allnutt's dairy and country pursuits were a constant source of amusement to her, and nothing pleased her better than exchanging presents of game or the products of the dairy with her neighbours. One such present consisted of some small pigs which she directed the coachman to drive to their destination. The coachman demurred ; he said he was engaged to drive Mrs. Allnutt or the carriage anywhere, but to drive pigs he was not engaged. Nothing more was said at the time, but very shortly the carriage was ordered, and Mrs. Allnutt said, " You will now *drive* the pigs in the carriage." History does not relate what transpired.

The next letter is as follows :—

"The Grove, Wednesday, July 15th, 1857.

My dear Cousin,

I am anxiously awaiting your next letter, announcing the day I may expect the pleasure of your company. You may be quite certain the carriage will be in attendance at the station (Tunbridge Wells) when you have named the hour and day for your arrival. I am sorry I shall not see Julia, but must look for that pleasure at some future period. Either Maria or Mr. Boissier will meet you at the station,

and you can make what use of the carriage you like, should you wish to call anywhere. This extreme heat is very trying, & almost overpowering even when sitting still. The haymaking is now pretty well concluded, and the harvest will quickly follow. The wheat was never more promising, but there is nothing for the poor cows; my dairy has sadly fallen off, I think quite a third. Everything seems parched up. My beautiful roses are dropping for want of some refreshing showers. I trust most truly that we may not be in any way disappointed, but have a happy meeting as early as you can conveniently leave home. With my kindest love, I remain yours affectly,

Frances Allnutt."

The last is but a note, stating that Mr. Boissier would be at the Wells at half past three.

Mrs. Allnutt died, we believe, in 1868, aged 96. Her death was caused by a fish bone becoming lodged in her throat, though otherwise she was perfectly well, and apparently had before her a prospect of many years.

Mrs. Allnutt's abilities were of the highest order, and were exercised in many directions. She was devoted to gardening and outdoor pursuits and to literature. Her management of domestic affairs was admirable; and that her arrangements met with the approval of her servants may be proved by the circumstance that they all grew old in her service. Richard and Benjamin, the coachman and butler, were in her service for over forty years. One evening Benjamin asked Mrs. Allnutt if she remembered where she was dining forty years ago that day? He said it was the first day that he came, and he had to take the family to the house he named.

Maria Boissier left two children, Allnutt and Arthur, the former of whom died of pneumonia several years ago. He was an accomplished musician, and excelled on the violin. The Boissiers lived for many years at Oakfields, a pretty house built by Mr. Boissier, situated half way up Smart's Hill. In Penshurst Church are two brass plates, inscribed as follows:—

"In memory of Revd. George Richard Boissier A.B. of Oakfields in this parish. Died 23rd June 1858 aged 67.

Also of Maria his wife, daughter of Richard Allnutt Esq. of South Park in this parish. Died 23rd January 1886 aged 79."

CHAPTER XIII.

NOUAILLE OF GREATNESS, SEVENOAKS.

The Nouailles, or de Noailles, were an ancient and noble French family, who fled to England in 1685 on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, choosing rather to give up possessions, country, and title than to renounce their Protestant religion. As it has been our consistent endeavour in elucidating this work to employ as far as possible the writings of members of the family, the story of the Nouailles shall be revealed by several documents, the first of which is a memorandum by Miss Nouaille of St. John's, Sevenoaks, dated 1867.

“ At the revocation of the Edict of Nantz my great grandfather Peter Nouaille, or rather de Noailles, came into this country and died and was buried at St. Anne's, Soho, (of which circumstance the register, being faulty, gives no intelligence, nevertheless I know the circumstance thro' my Father & the Delamares & by other circumstances; that is to say by tradition, being handed down from generation to generation. The documents and all the papers and arms &c. relating to the male part of my family are in the hands of James Frushard my Father's nephew, now in India).

My great grandfather was of the old House of Noaille or Nouaille in Languedoc, who proved their descent in the Reign of Louis the XIV for eight or nine hundred years previous to his reign; the old Chateau Noailles was the inheritance of the family. P. Noailles or Nouaille (a) embarked at Nimes, he being a Protestant, and by that forfeited all his inheritance and the protection of his family: he died within the year of his arrival into this country. His wife Ann Blois married a Grillier, and my grandfather (b) by that means lost all his inheritance, save some few hundred pounds

(a) 26th February, 1693. Marriage of Sr. [Seigneur] Pierre Nouaille of Nimes in Languedoc and Mme. Suzanne Jollys of Mar, Blois; performed at French Protestant Church, Glasshouse Street, Leicester Fields.

(b) Miss Nouaille throughout her account has left out a generation. The pedigree of the Nouailles is as follows:—

Pierre de Noailles, otherwise Peter Nouaille, who came over from France, m. Anne Blois (re-married to Mons. Grillier) and was bu. at St. Anne's, Soho, in 1692 leaving

Peter Nouaille of Paternoster Row, London, b. 1692, m. Anne dau. of John Mailliard of Spitalfields. He d. 11th April, 1763, aged 70; she 11th December, 1765, leaving issue a daughter Susanna m. James Frushard of London, d. 22nd February, 1795, leaving a son James Frushard of Calcutta, of the firm of Udney, Frushard and Laprimandaye; and a son

Peter Nouaille of Hackney and of Greatness, Sevenoaks, D.L. for the City of London, m. February, 1760, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Peter Delamare; he d. 7th December, 1809, she 6th June, 1805, leaving

1. Anne, b. 29th October, 1761, in St. Mary Axe, bapt. at St. Andrew Undershaft, m. 28th July, 1791, at St. George's, Hanover Square, Edward Rudge, F.R.S., F.R.G.S., F.R.H.S., and F.R.L.S. of Abbey Manor House, Evesham (b. 27th June, 1763, d. 3rd September, 1846); she d. 1st September, 1836, leaving issue

(a) Edward John Rudge, F.R.S. of Abbey Manor House, Evesham, J.P., D.L., Barrister at law, b. 30th May, 1792, in Russell Place; ancestor of Rudges of Evesham.

(b) Samuel Nouaille Rudge of Threethingham, Co. Lincoln, D.L., Barrister-at-law, ancestor of Rudges of Threethingham.

(c) Anne Eliza Nouaille Rudge, b. 13th June, 1797, m. 22nd September, 1824, Charles Richard Pole of Wickhill House, Co. Gloucester, and had issue.

in cash. When 21 years of age he travelled abroad and brought home his great grandmother, and he became after a time a Merchant and Freeman of London and made much money. My grandfather had two children by his wife Ann Malliard, viz: My Father and a daughter married to James Frushard, whose son took away the family documents, save an old marriage contract in the iron chest."

This document is supplemented by an obituary notice that appeared in the *Annual Register* on the death of Miss Nouaille's grandfather in 1809, extracts from which we have taken the liberty to append.

"At Greatness, near Sevenoaks, aged 86, Peter Nouaille esq. the oldest member of his Majesty's Court of Lieutenancy in the City of London. This gentleman's grandfather was descended from an ancient family in France, and came over to this country from Nismes in Languedoc, at the revocation of the edict of Nantz, having sacrificed a considerable property in that country in common with many others who upon that occasion voluntarily left France for the sake of their religious principles. Mr. Nouaille's father resided at Hackney and was a merchant of considerable eminence in the Levant and Italian trade. At the age of twenty one, Mr. N. having previously been taken into partnership with his father, set out upon a tour through Europe with a view to establish correspondences, and to acquire general knowledge; at the end of two years, having travelled through France, Italy and Sicily, he was obliged to return home without visiting Germany on account of the Continental War, in which England was at that time engaged.

"Whilst abroad, he gained a perfect knowledge of the French and Italian languages, which he spoke and wrote with the fluency and correctness of a native, acquired a great taste for the fine arts, and brought home with him a valuable collection of pictures and prints &c. which he continued to augment for many years after his return to this country.

"In the year 1761 he married Elizabeth, the only daughter and heiress of Peter Delamare esq. of Greatness, whose ancestors were likewise refugees from France in 1686. In right of his wife he became possessed of the silk mills at Greatness; they had been erected upon a very confined scale, and at that period they did not produce above 300l. per annum. He however soon perceived that great advantages

2. Peter Nouaille of Greatness, J.P., b. 7th May, 1766, in St. Mary Axe, m. 17th September, 1801, Anne daughter of WILLIAM WOODGATE of Summerhill, J.P., D.L., (b. 25th January bapt. 25th February, 1774, d. 2nd February, 1848, bu. at Sevenoaks) d. 3rd August, 1845, aged 80, bu. at Sevenoaks; left issue.

(a) Peter of St. John's Lodge, Sevenoaks, d. unm. 6th March, 1864, bu. at Sevenoaks.

(b) Philip, b. September, 1803, d. 12th December, 1803.

(c) Rev. Julius, B.A., Vicar of Ditchling, Sussex, d. unm. 2nd February, 1855, aged 49.

(d) Philip, emigrated to Canada where he died at Upper Dawn 8th December, 1849, aged 41.

(e) Anne of St. John's Lodge, Sevenoaks, d. unm. November, 1897. Last survivor of the Nouaille family.

The Delamares were descended from Etienne Delamare, who married Elizabeth Fauvel (will dated 1692, pr. 1694) and left issue

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Peter, of whom presently. | 5. Elizabeth m. John Le Bailey. |
| 2. Stephen, dead in 1692. | 6. Susannah m. Noah Lubias |
| 3. Isaac. | 7. Francis |
| 4. Michael. | |

Peter Delamare m. the daughter of — Viard and had issue

1. Peter m. Catherine daughter of Nicholas Oursel, and had issue Elizabeth m. Peter Nouaille (see p. 407).
2. Abraham of Hackney s.p.
3. Isaac m. Miss Vautier (see p. 407).
4. Jacob d. unm.
5. John d. at Cheshunt 15th March, 1794, aged 70 unm.
6. Mary m. Auber (see p. 407).
7. Susanna d. unm.

were to be obtained by them, and possessing a profound knowledge of mechanics and mathematics, after spending at least 20,000*l.* in enlarging and improving the machinery, he very considerably increased their produce. Some parts of the machinery which he invented are so ingenious in their construction and movements as to render the silk prepared by them for different branches of manufacture far superior to that worked by any others in this country.

"He first introduced the manufacture of crapes into England, which before his time were imported from Bologna; by his own ingenuity he discovered the process of their manufacture, and soon rivalled them in his manner of preparing them. In the year 1778, partly through the imprudent speculations of a near relation, in whom he placed implicit confidence, and partly by heavy losses occasioned by the failure of a house with which he transacted business, he became a bankrupt. The unkindness and oppression which he experienced from some of his relatives upon this occasion considerably aggravated, and certainly tended to confirm, this misfortune which might have been averted had proper time been given him to settle his affairs. He was however amply compensated by the countenance and friendly offers of assistance which he received from many of the most eminent merchants in the city, amongst the foremost of whom was his ever valued friend Peter Gausson esq. then Governor of the Bank. After the sale of his effects and collections, he prosecuted his business with unceasing energy. The silk mills now became his chief object; he more than doubled their number, and brought them to so high a degree of perfection that they produced many thousands per annum, and in a few years he was enabled, as he had hoped to do from the hour of his misfortune, most honourably to discharge the residue of his debts which would have been due to the creditors had not the bankruptcy taken place, and which after it had he could be under no legal obligation to pay. It was a measure dictated alone by that high sense of honour and integrity which uniformly directed all his dealings with others.

"In 1800, having realized an independent fortune, which was then considerably increased by the death of a near relation, he withdrew from business, giving up the manufactory and property connected with it to his son, and retired to Sevenoaks, where he resided till the death of his wife, which took place in 1805. He then returned to pass the remainder of his days with his son at Greatness. About this time his memory began to fail him; it was the only symptom he exhibited of old age, and was probably occasioned by his intense application to studies of an abstruse nature at an earlier period of life.

"In the year 1792, when the mania of the French Revolution had nearly obtained a footing in this Country, and it became necessary for every one to testify their attachment to the constitution, his name appeared almost the first upon the list of those public spirited men who at that critical juncture established the association at the Crown and Anchor. He was blessed with a good though rather delicate constitution which had never been impaired by intemperance or enfeebled by disease; and he had the enviable felicity of attaining to an advanced age without suffering from any of the infirmities which usually accompany that period of life, being able to read the smallest print without the assistance of glasses. He possessed a highly cultivated understanding and a considerable portion of general knowledge, refined by an exquisite taste; the upright independence of his character and his high sense of honour were manifested in every occurrence of his life. He had a strong sense of religion and piety, and a sensibility and tenderness of feeling that rendered him ever alive to the misfortunes of others. In addition to the many Christian virtues which he exercised, the most prominent feature of his character was an unbounded liberality and benevolence towards those who needed his support; his purse was ever open to encourage and assist young artists in their professional pursuits. To rescue merit from distress, and to bring into active and useful exertion talents which would otherwise have been lost, he was ever foremost to contribute; his kindness to all those employed in his service uniformly shone forth on every

occasion, amply providing for the comforts of those who had grown old in his employ. To the poor he was a kind friend and benefactor, and no-one was more deservedly esteemed in the neighbourhood where he resided. The respect that attended him through life was equalled only by the sorrow which accompanied him to the grave. He was buried at Christ Church, Spitalfields, and has left a son who succeeds him in the business, and one daughter who was married in 1791 to Edward Rudge esq."

Mrs. Rudge had a daughter Ann, afterwards Mrs. Charles Pole, who describes her mother as "a most charming brunette, with an exquisite figure." Mrs. Pole has left a brief memoir of her grandfather.

" My mother's father was distantly related to his wife (her mother), and was of the old Noaille family, the *u* having been introduced after coming to England. The arms were also the Noaille arms, but were also altered (*c*), which ought not to have been done! I have several drawings of arms and quarterings with coronets of my Mother's family.

"All the Dutch and French Refugees prospered in England, and many have married into the English nobility. My grandfather Petr Nouaille was one of the Prince Merchants of his time, a *most accomplished* as well as a *most truly good* man; he had travelled a great deal, and spoke many languages fluently. His house was always open to distinguished men, whether foreigners or English, of science and arts. He had a nephew, a sister's son, in whom he placed *entire* confidence, and by degrees trusted *every thing* and every transaction to him. Alas! his nephew played him false, and my gd-father was ruined. Of course every thing was sold; but a small place which had been a Hunting box of my gd-father's father [other accounts represent it as the property of the Delamares] called Greatness near Sevenoaks, Kent, and which with other property had been settled on my gdmother, remained, and there my gd-father went with his wife and two children, my mother and her brother. Both were old enough to know all the circumstances, *particularly* my mother, who from very early years had been her Father's companion and *comfort*. He could not rest without trying something that would enable him to repay every farthing to his creditors. He was a very great mathematician, it had been an amusement in prosperous times. He now determined to turn it to account; and after great and very patient trials, he succeeded by calculations to form a machine which should produce a fabric only procured from Italy at great cost, and of which the secret was kept *inviolably* by the makers. He was enabled to produce the *same* thing at a much less cost, and had in a few years the *great* happiness to repay *all* his creditors to the *last farthing*, and realized also a fortune of £10,000 per annum. He continued to live at Sevenoaks till he died."

Mr. Nouaille, as has been mentioned, married at the beginning of February, 1760, Elizabeth the only daughter and heiress of Peter Delamare (*d*), then living

- (*c*) The arms of the de Noailles are "Gules, a bend or;" with which are quartered those of Delamare, namely, "Azure, a lion rampant argent" The bend has been extended over them both, so as to form, practically, but one coat. Miss Nouaille's grandfather had these arms registered at the College of Arms.

- (*d*) Peter Delamare m. Miss Viard and had issue
1. Peter, whose only child m. Peter Nouaille.
 2. Mary, m. Mr. Auber, and had issue Robert Henry Auber of Camberwell, living in 1843.
 3. Isaac, of whom presently, and
 - 4—7 Four other children.
- Isaac Delamare of Cheshunt, m. Miss Vautier and had issue
1. Isaac of Cheshunt, d. at Holylands Hotel, Norfolk Street, Strand, 2nd December, 1829, aged 88.
 2. Daniel, d. of a decline under 30.
 3. and 4. Catherine and Mary, lived at Theobalds.
 5. Elizabeth.

with her uncle Abraham Delamare in Steward Street, Spitalfields, where the Huguenot refugees congregated in great numbers. Even now many of the old houses show traces of the silk weaving industry that was carried on by the refugees, and many of the names in that quarter are obviously Gallic in their origin. Unfortunately (at least, from the antiquarian point of view) the neighbourhood is being rapidly filled up by Jewish immigrants, who overflow from the neighbouring district of Whitechapel. Mr. Nouaille was then living in Wamford Court, behind the Royal Exchange. The marriage was held at the Chapel in the Tower of London.

The Delamares were likewise a refugee family, hailing from Normandy; their history reads like a page of romance. Mrs. Nouaille's grandmother on the mother's side was Elizabeth Bernard, only child of Pierre Bernard, who appears to have been descended from Bernard Damelour, a colonel in the guards of Frederick Augustus, Prince of Saxe. Elizabeth Bernard's mother was dead; her father lingered in France in an endeavour to save the wreck of his fortune, and sent her to England by herself. With great difficulty he got her on board a French fishing boat; her grandmother combed back her hair, kissed her, and bade her adieu, hoping soon to follow her to England; but the orders were so rigidly enforced that they were unsuccessful, and never saw her again. The child was only eight years old and was landed on the shores of England by the poor fishermen, who were well acquainted with and devoted to her family (*e*). Before parting, her grandmother had tied around her neck a pearl necklace with a double row of pearls of great value. She was consigned, with many valuable jewels, to the care of an eminent merchant living at Kensington. According to one version, she was accompanied to England by her uncle. The story may be continued in the words of Mrs. Nouaille (Elizabeth Delamare):—

“My grandmother [Elizabeth Bernard] was put to one of the best schools at the west end of London, from whence at the age of 16 she was married to Nicholas

Elizabeth Delamare m. in 1769 Stephen Dolignon and had issue

1. Louisa m. 15th May, 1794, Philip Dauncey, Barrister-at-law; he died 14th June, 1819, aged 59; she 6th February, 1804, aged 34, leaving
 - (a) Philip. (b) John m. 13th March, 1827.
 - (c) Louisa, m. 4th January, 1820, Robert Bill, Barrister-at-law, who d. at Rochester 12th October, 1823, leaving three daughters.
 - (d) Mary Sophia, m. 2nd November, 1826, John Henry Latham of Dover, and had four or five children.
 2. Rev. John Dolignon, Rector of Hillborough and Vicar of Goodnestone, Norfolk, m. about 1808, the dau. of Archdeacon Yonge of Swaffham, who d. 7th March, 1843, in Oxford Street, leaving issue one son, the Rev. John Dolignon, and four daughters.
- (e) Affairs of this kind must have been not uncommon. An instance is related in the Diary and Correspondence of the first Lord Malmesbury, who in November, 1796, met at Paris “Mme. de Noailles from Versailles.” The editor of the diary (the late Lord Malmesbury) delivers the following anecdote from an original memorandum among the Harris papers.

Lord Malmesbury was at Brighton at the period of the bitter persecution of the French nobility and clergy during the Revolution; and as he was walking on the beach, a French fishing boat drew up and landed an infant, whose parents intended to follow. He consigned it to the care of Lady Malmesbury; and within a month the child's mother arrived. This child became a handsome and fascinating woman, and a leader in the first circles in Paris. Lady Malmesbury was a Miss Amyard, of a Huguenot family, whose ancestor came over a year before the revocation of the Edict of Nantes; her brother, Sir George Amyard, married the heiress of the Cornwall's of Moccas Court, Herefordshire, and took their name.

This information is derived from a letter written by Mr. Francis Bayley, the County Court Judge at Westminster (one of the sons of Sir John Bayley, Baron of the Exchequer) to his cousin Miss Nouaille in 1876. Lady Bayley was a great niece of Mrs. William Woodgate of Summerhill, and Sir George Cornwall married her grand-daughter, Louisa, daughter of Mr. Francis Bayley.

Oursel (*f*), who came also from France on the same occasion, and I believe from Normandy. His history is as follows; and that of his father is in a letter, in my little iron trunk, (which I beg may remain in my family for ever). Nicholas Oursel had good fortune enough to sell part of his land and property in France to a Priest who was privately his friend; he sold it at a loss, but being fortunate enough to realize it in money, being very fair and handsome he rubbed his face over with walnut liquor, disguised himself as a sailor, got on board a Dutch ship, and when the French soldiers came to examine the ship to see no refugees were there, he employed himself about some of the tackle of the vessel and passed unnoticed and arrived safe in Holland. From thence he came to England, when soon becoming acquainted with my grandmother, he married her from the boarding school. I forgot to mention that her expenses had regularly been supplied from France, but that after I suppose the death of either her father or uncle the pension ceased. I think her mother was dead before she came over. Nicholas Oursel still left property in France, which two old maiden ladies, by turning Roman Catholics, got possessed of; there was a fine house at Paris, which the son of Nicholas Oursel and my Mother's brother went to Paris and I believe went to law about; at least he spent fifteen hundred pounds in endeavouring to recover that house and other property, which was acknowledged to be his undoubted right, and that if he would turn Roman Catholic he would have been put in possession of, but he refused and came back again.

"My mother, Catherine Oursel, was his sister; she has said that her family were originally English, and that they went over to France with William the Conqueror, and that her family arms were in Coventry. She has also said there was a fine estate in France, but although it was acknowledged her brother's right if he would turn Catholic, he replied he would not on any account.

"My grandfather and grandmother Nicholas and Elizabeth Oursel lived in Bucklebury [in the City]; he became a Merchant and made a good fortune, but being too venturesome in trade met with losses, went and settled in Dublin, and then went to Rotterdam in Holland where he died. My mother was at all these places. There appear to have been former alliances between Avelliers and Bernards, as appears from a silver seal, the property of my mother, and several of her family arms which I have got and request may be preserved. I never knew from what part of France my mother's mother came from. My mother's brother Nicholas Oursel lived and died in Holland; he married first a Burgomaster's daughter, by whom he had one son; this died—he then lived at Rotterdam. In second marriage he chose a lady of the name of Rizder; by her he left three children both sons and daughter. He fell into misfortunes at last. All these children if found out must some of them have papers which can more particularly trace my family. My mother married Peter Delamare of a French family of Normandy; there was a Sir Peter Delamare came over with William the Conqueror as recorded in history. I am the only child of Peter Delamare and Catherine Oursel. (signed) Eliz: Nouaille."

- (*f*) *Nicholas Oursel m. Noemy Berguier of Havre à Gras, Normandy, and had issue*
Nicholas Oursel, m. 17th April, 1768, Elizabeth Bernard, only child and heiress of Pierre Bernard and Margaret Avellier his wife; he had issue (besides four children who died young).
1. Catherine b. at London 1st April, 1700. Will pr. 4th August, 1798, m. Peter Delamare and had issue Elizabeth, wife of Peter Nouaille of Greatness.
 2. Elizabeth, b. in London 17th September, 1698, d. 7th April, 1754, unm.
 3. *Nicholas.*
- Nicholas Oursel of Rotterdam, b. at Battersea 9th May, 1705, m. 1st a burgomaster's daughter and had issue*
1. a son, d. young.
- He m. 2nd, D. Rysen (b. 1711) and had issue*
2. *Nicholas of Amsterdam: had issue, two children who d. young, and a dau. Joanna Apollonie.*
 - 3 and 4. Two daughters, one of whom married Corneille Turtorel of Leyden and had five children.

This valuable paper was written in January, 1789, at Great Ness. A long letter from Nicholas Oursel addressed from Amsterdam to his cousins the Nouailles, 9th December, 1791, intimates that he had been applied to for information on family affairs. He says:—

“ I have all the books of the arms of this our family in my hands, likewise papers of the law suit which my father commenced for your parents concerning the estate of our great aunt at Paris. . . . My mother Oursel, born Rysen, is in a good situation and is near 80 years of age; my eldest sister is married very well, and my youngest sister has a sufficiency and has five children. My business consists in the management of a respectable House of commerce, named Van der Uliet & Zoonen, well known in London, trading in manufactured goods. I have had three children in marriage, but only one living about six years old. I shall not mention any more concerning our family, except that they are looked on here as fashionable people. If you choose now to revive a forgotten relationship, you will find me and mine always ready to continue our friendship; on the side of my worthy deceased father, I have no nearer relation than you. . . . ” The address from which he writes is Beruling Straat, Amsterdam.

We have been thus particular with the various collateral ancestors of the Nouailles, partly because of the intrinsic interest of the story, partly because records of this nature are easy to lose and almost impossible to replace; and as we have been favoured with the loan of the foregoing documents, as well as others, by the Rev. W. J. Rudge, the present possessor of them, we have endeavoured to perpetuate them far as possible (*ff*).

To return, however, to the Nouailles. Mr. and Mrs. Nouaille, and their son Peter, were living together at Greatness at the beginning of the last century, and the sole management of the mills was in the hands of Peter, the son. He was very handsome, and so like the Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV) that they might have passed for brothers. He was deeply attached to the daughter of a Peer (who entertained an ardent and brotherly friendship for Mr. Nouaille), and she was no less devoted to him, who had upon one occasion been the means of saving her life; but Mr. Nouaille hindered the match.

A second attachment proved more successful. Peter Nouaille wooed and won Anne Woodgate, the second daughter of William Woodgate of Summerhill, in 1802, but for further particulars of this circumstance see p. 363. Mr. Foster informed Maria Woodgate that he stated his income at £6,000 a year, out of which he allowed his father £1,500 and his mother £900. The Nouailles themselves say Mr. Nouaille's fortune amounted to £10,000 a year. Mr. and Mrs. Nouaille junior lived at Greatness, near Sevenoaks. Greatness (*g*) is a large old stone house outside the town, near which were the celebrated silk mills.

The first letter that we have, after the marriage, may be found on p. 365 under the heading of Summerhill, which it chiefly concerns. Mrs. Nouaille adds: “ Mr. and Mrs. Rudge visit us, how long to tarry I know not, but I hope some time. On our return from the Hill yesterday we were very greatly concerned to find that Mr. J. Mills, whose wife is sister to Mrs. Child and who was second in command in the manufactory, had been taken ill of a fever and died on Friday night. He was a young man, has left seven children, and in a short time there will be another. We were

(*ff*) As the proofs of these pages pass through our hands, we observe with deep regret the death of the Rev. W. J. Rudge, who expressed a keen interest in this work and afforded us most valuable assistance.

(*g*) Greatness undoubtedly belonged to the Nouailles for many years prior to the Woodgate alliance; yet in 1790 we find an advertisement for sale of two properties at Sevenoaks and Otford belonging to Lady Smythe, deceased. Lot 1 consisted of Place Farm and Great Lodge Farm and 459a (on which stood the venerable ruins of Otford Castle), let on lease to William Everest. Lot 2 comprised *Greatness Farm*, consisting of farm house, outhouses, and 417a. 1r. 33p. of land let on lease to Richard Ray.

not only grieved for the loss of this poor man, but very apprehensive that the fever should spread ; four of the children have caught it, but they have it in a slight degree. God grant that it may not spread ! This poor fellow caught it in London."

In September, 1806, Mrs. Humphry writes of her niece's establishment : " Betsy and myself have this morning taken a drive to Seven Oaks. On our return we called on Mrs. Nouaille ; the House is in the greatest confusion & they are at this time painting the dining parlour. Capt'n & Mrs. Thomas are returned with them. *She* expressed great satisfaction that they are returned *home*."

Mr. Nouaille, senior, died at a ripe old age in 1809. Rose Woodgate writes that it must be considered a happy release. Mrs. Nouaille, senior, had predeceased her husband. She left some sealed directions concerning her affairs, to be opened after her death.

The first paper is dated 17th June, 1794. By it, she expresses a wish not to be buried at Sevenoaks, but in the Nouaille family vault in Spital Fields Church. Also that her three brilliant diamond pins and earrings, and bracelets set round with brilliants, might go to her daughter Anne Rudge for life and then to her daughters. That her son Peter should have the bracelet containing the miniature of his father, her pearl pin and pearl necklace of two rows, and all the rings in the filigree iron box, except one, and " all my mother's family arms . . . and the letter also in the little filigree iron box, as proofs to his family, should he ever have any, whence they originally came for the cause of the Protestant Religion." The excepted ring was to go to Capt. William Thomas, grandson of James Prevost, Esq., of the Island of Jamaica. Her wearing apparel, except her Point and Brussels lace, and other lace, to her maid Anne Favant if living with her at her death ; finally, in the event of the directions being attended to, she left her children her blessing.

She left another paper which partook of the nature of a codicil. By it she directed that, as she had a separate income from the Three per cents held in Trust for her by Messrs. James and Peter Auber and John Sewell, and from time to time had made trifling savings, such savings and all other money she might have which " would be but a trifle to either of my children," should go to her unfortunate relations in Holland, the Oursels. She declared that Mr. Nouaille had made such ample provision for his son and daughter, to which she had herself added by cutting off her entail, that she felt that something was owing to a family reduced by misfortunes ; the money should therefore go to her first cousin Nicholas Oursel of Amsterdam, or in case of his death to his only daughter Johanna Apolonice, or (in case of her death) to Oursel's widowed sister the wife of Corneille Turtinel and her five children at Leyden. She earnestly requested her husband, " who never refused me anything in his power," to attend to the directions ; revoked the gift of the ring to Capt. Thomas ; and confirmed her gift to Anne Favant, then Mrs. Child. Dated 24th February, 1801.

The paper is long and involved, but the above is the substance of its intent.

Among the Nouaille papers is a note addressed by the Rector of Sevenoaks, proposing a composition in lieu of Tithes, to hold good for six years.

" Sevenoaks, March 3rd, 1807.

Sir, For the land and premises you occupy in the parish of Sevenoaks, Kent, called Greatness-farm, I propose that you pay to me the Rector and Vicar thereof as a Composition of Rectorial and Vicarial Tithes, with all parish rates and assessments thereon, the annual sum of £46 19 6 for six years from New Michaelmas Day 1806 in the stead of the same being taken in kind. I am, Sir, your humble Servant
Thomas Sackville Curteis.

A written answer to the above of consent or non-consent to be returned on or before the 12th day of March, 1807."

On the back of this paper are some calculations in Mr. Nouaille's writing as to some land in Seal, consisting of 200 acres, including 25 acres of wood of Kay's farm, 60 acres of Mrs. Lane's, and the House, 40 acres and cottages, including 9 acres of plantations. He purchased the tithes of Seal and Kemsing on this property of 4/6 an acre at 30 years purchase, that is for £2,025. The interest on this, setting the woodland as compensation for small tithes, would be £101 5¹/₂. There had been a similar communication in 1799, suggesting "four shillings per acre, one with another, through the whole farm; for Hops six shillings *additional* to the *Four*; wood four addl; and Flax two addl, this Composition to cover all other articles of Tithes as Hay, Corn & Cows &c."

Another letter from Mr. Curteis offers to make Peter Nouaille Churchwarden.

"Lee near Lewisham.

March 13th, 1809.

Dear Sir,

I have heard of your great and nobly spirited Conduct in Regard to the steps going to be taken abt Repairing our Church. I admire & commend you much for the Part you are abt to take in it. I cannot therefore defer making a Request to you to ye following Purport. On Easter Monday next the Minister & Parishioners choose New Churchwardens, therefore shall be made very happy & comfortable if you will permit me to appoint *you* for my Churchwarden for ye ensuing year. We expect to be visited by our Diocesan this Summer, & shall be doubly pleased to have a man of your Respectability in a public Character on that Occasion. I will thank you for a Line in the course of a week or Ten Days. I return Home some Day this Week. With all due Compts & Respects to you & yours, hoping this will find you all well, Believe me, faithfully & sincerely

T. S. Curteis."

The seal to this letter bears the Curteis arms with an inescutcheon of pretence.

There are two letters from the Rev. Thomas Baker of Chidingstone. In the first, dated 1806, he desires Peter Nouaille to request his friend Lord Stanhope (distinguished for his mechanical genius and scientific researches) to make some calculations on the analogy of colour to sound. The second is as follows:—

"Chidingstone, May 19th, 1812.

Dearly beloved Peter,

Knowing that on Sundays (especially if they are *wet*) your Master either reads to you or makes you (which is the same thing, excepting the Difference) read good Books to her, I have enclos'd what I had at Brighton some 20 years since extracted from an old Gentleman's Magazine, for both your conning and observing upon . . . What a Fuss about *Θaks*, *No-ale*, and a *Chat-wicke* in the last Eur; Mag! I told Asperne that it was by no means a Parson's Production. Having an unexpected half-Hours Leisure, and knowing how full your *inner* Waistcoat is of Friendship and Patience, I will thus extend my *Epistolary* visit; and swear that your Antedeluvian Watch was not made by Tubal-Cain, or rather (if there is any difference) before the year A.D. 1642; but more of that when next we meet at the aforesaid Silversmith's, or infinitely rather in this very house where I am writing this Scrawl. I had a Letter on Thursday last (while in Town) from Sir Nash, full of Amazement and Trouble concerning his intimate and much esteemed Friend, Mr. Percival—but I need not waste Paper, Pen and your Patience upon that over-copious Subject, re-re-repeated every where; only begging you to tell me when the Sky will fall; to the easily catching of Larks; and compelling the *Outs* and the *In's* to co-co-coalesce? N.B. If thou shalt want good *Arsenick* to poison Rats with, pray send to Pickance's at Penshurst; as what we laid of it for that killing Purpose full 4 Months since hath *nasally* poison'd this House ever since, and we are afraid for 4 Months to come. How little did we dream that their Tedd Potties and *Effluvia* would have lasted so long! More odious (or odoriferous?) behind our Parlour-

Wainscoat than all the Rats in Oaks Parish!!! However we positively will have it all sweet and comfortacious against the much-long'd-for Visit of the No-alians; and in the meantime the aforesaid *we* do remain their cordial Well-wishers,

Thomas & Mary Baker.

P.S. Alas poor Oaks-Church! Scarcely repairable externally; and on last Sunday internally irreligiously interrupted!!!"

This amusing letter was addressed to Peter Nouaille, Esq., Greatness. Sir Nash was Sir Nash Grose, who used to stay with the Nouailles at Greatness; he was likewise a great friend of the Childrens and of the Summerhill Woodgates, and for twenty-six years a Judge of the King's Bench. The assassination of Mr. Percival, the Prime Minister, took place on 11th May, 1812, and naturally created great excitement at the time. The key to the new arrangement of verses is too long for insertion.

There is also a letter upon business matters from John L. Barnard of 6, George Lane, Botolph Lane, Eastcheap (perhaps a cousin), dated 8th February, 1810. Mr. Nouaille's father was the last surviving executor of Mrs. Delamare of Hackney, who had left some money to James Frushard of Calcutta, of the Calcutta firm of Udney, Frushard & Laprimandaye; James Frushard died leaving Stephen Laprimandaye his partner and executor; the latter appointed Mr. Barnard his attorney, who writes in that capacity. In reply Mr. Nouaille referred him to E. G. Smith Esq. of Barbers Hall, his attorney.

In the meantime Mr. Nouaille's family was growing up at Greatness. There was one daughter, Anne, and four sons, of whom Philip the second died at the age of three months. Peter, the eldest, was at school at Brentford and was about eleven years old when he wrote in a faultless hand the following letter, which bears evident marks of dictation.

"Eggesfield House, Decr 1st, 1813.

Dear Father,

With the most sincere pleasure I take up my pen to inform you that our Vacation will commence on Thursday the 23rd instant, when I hope for the happiness of seeing you and all my friends quite well at Greatness. Mr. Morris desires me also to mention that the business of the School will be resumed on Monday the 24th of January. With Duty to my Mother, and Love to my Brothers and Sister, I remain, Dear Father, Your very Dutiful Son,

Peter Nouaille."

One can very well imagine this letter written up on the black board, to be copied out, with the necessary variations, by each boy in the school!

The school was kept by the Rev. John Morris. For the half year ending at Christmas, 1814, the fees for Peter and Julius amounted to £78, including extras. Mr. Morris was then of opinion that they could both hold a higher place in the class if they exerted themselves to the utmost. The next half year, ending July, saw Philip the youngest son also at School, when their united fees amounted to £93 for the half year. Mr. Morris then described "all the trio as promising young Gentlemen and of excellent disposition & conduct." By successive stages they rose in his estimation, so that at the end of that year there were "no more amiable boys in his house;" all shewed gradual improvement, especially Master Philip, who promised to do very well. Their fees for that half year came to £118. In the bill of December 1815 the chief Latin Book was Virgil; and the extras, in that and the other accounts, included French, Dancing, and Drawing.

The other letter from Brentford that survives, though written nearly four years later, is neither so elegantly framed nor so faultlessly transcribed; in other words, it was a genuine letter, and not a species of dictation or copy lesson.

“Eggesfield House, Sept 14th, [1817].

Dear Father,

When I came here Mr. Morris, as I told you before, asked me some questions & among them he asked me what I should be, & I said, that I should like to follow your line of business, & he said he wished to have some conversation with you on the subject when the first opportunity should offer, & pray tell me when I am to leave Brentford as I wish very much to know. Pray tell Mrs. Weatherman I gave her letter to the Coachman to give to Mr. Lee. I hope Mr. Blum is well & that you are all so. Give our love to William & all at Greatness & receive the same yourself & I hope that you left all well at South Park. I remain, Your very dutiful Son,
Peter Nouaille.”

On the other side of the page is scrawled an epistle in the hand of Philip Nouaille, who was then eight or nine years old ; some obvious mistakes have been corrected in a grown up hand, but we have adhered to the more interesting original, with its highly necessary postscript :—

“Dear Sister,

I have got a preasant for you & it is shuttlecock & bateldore. Pray have you rode the donkey since we left you ? I hope you have, if you havent pray ride it now else I shall never be able to stick on. As I have nothing more to say, I remain your affectunate Brother

Philip Nouaille.

excuse my bad writting.”

Here is a treatment for typhus fever in its worst form ; it seems that there were some cases of typhus at Sevenoaks at the beginning of 1818, when Mr. Nouaille wrote to a friend in London, Peter Le Souef, for particulars of the treatment. Having had a friend successfully treated he was able to give the outline of the general course as applied by Dr. Fordham of North Audley Street. . . . “Mr. F. ordered this young man’s head to be shaved and a Blyster applied immediately (as before observed, his case was quite desperate). There were afterwards mustard poultices applied to the soles of the feet and a profusion of strong Cordials administered, *together with yeast at intervals.* . . . I beg my respects to good Mrs. Nouaille and sincerely wishing that every blessing may attend her humane exertions to relieve every one on whom she is in the habit of bestowing her kindness, I remain, Dear Sir, very sincerely yours, Peter Le Souef.”

In 1819 Mr. Urquhart of Kemsing wrote requesting facilities for fishing :

“Sir, Desirous of Angling in the stream towards Otford, I beg leave to solicit the liberty of following the course through your Park and Grounds ; if not inconsistent with your rules the favor will be esteem’d by, Sir, (respectfully) Your obdnt & obliged Servt
Kemsing.

D. Urquhart.

17 May 1819.”

The kind reply deserves to be recorded :—

“Mr. Nouaille presents his Compliments & begs leave to assure Mr. Urquhart that if it can afford any amusement angling in the small brook which runs through the meadows on Mr. Nouaille’s estate, he is at full liberty so to do, Mr. Nouaille only requesting Mr. Urquhart to go thro Jonas’ garden to the Brook, as Mr. N. has not a spare key left in his possession to offer, which will open his boundary gates.”

The Nouailles had always a great predilection for interesting collections and objects of curiosity ; Miss Humphry refers to them on 17th Decr. 1820. “We drank tea at Greatness on Friday with the party from the Grove [the Hardinges] when Mr. Nouaille exhibited many of his interesting curiosity’s for the amusement of the young ladies. Our friend Peter came from Oxford for the Christmas vacations last Tuesday.”

An account in Mr. Nouaille's handwriting of "expenses to & from Oxford on Peter's account, Jan'y 10th, 1820," is preserved; it illustrates most strikingly the expenses of travelling in the old coaching days.

10th Jany.—	Chaise to Bromley	£0	19	6
	driver	0	3	6
	gates	0	1	6
	Chaise to Town	0	18	0
	Horsler	0	0	6
	gates	0	0	10
	driver	0	3	0
11th.—	Bill at Cooper's Hotel	2	1	0
	Waiter do do	0	6	0
	Coach to Oxford	3	5	0
	Coachman	0	3	6
	Lunch	0	7	0
	Coachman	0	3	0
12th.—	Hat for Julius	0	9	0
	Gloves. Self	0	3	6
	gave Henry (<i>h</i>)	5	0	0
	Lent ditto to be paid by William	8	0	0
13th.—	deposit for coach	1	0	0
	Library at Oxford	0	1	0
14th.—	Peter's fees Matriculation	2	11	0
	Other fees left with Henry	30	0	0
	Tavn Bill Oxford	8	7	4
	Waiter	0	9	0
	Chambermaid	0	8	0
	Boots	0	2	0
	Brawn	1	10	0
	Scout	0	1	0
15th.—	Coachman	0	3	0
	do	0	3	0
	Porter at Oxford	0	0	6
	letter & postage in London	0	1	6
	Coach from Oxford	2	15	0
	Chaise to Locksbottom	1	2	6
	driver	0	4	0
	gates	0	0	10
	Horsler	0	0	6
	Chaise Home	0	15	0
	Brandy & Water	0	1	0
	driver	0	3	6
	Horsler	0	0	6
	gates	0	1	6
	Miss Anne for good cond.	0	2	6
	Charity to Boakes	5	0	0
				77 9 0
Cash taken with me	£150	4	6	
Cash paid	77	9	0	
				72 15 6

These expenses were incurred on Peter's matriculation and entering at Oxford.

The next letter was written by Mrs. Nouaille, on Julia Humphry's engagement to her cousin Sir William Ashburnham in May, 1825; Julia Humphry was then staying at Tonbridge with her aunt Rose Woodgate.

"Greatness, Monday.

My dear Cousin Julia,

I cannot allow a Post to pass without offering you my most hearty Congratulations on your intended Marriage with Sir William Ashburnham. Believe me, my dear Cousin, it is an Event that rejoices my heart, & you have my fervent good wishes. You have bright Prospects for Happiness with so excellent a Man as Sir

(h) Was this Peter Nouaille's nephew, Henry Woodgate, then at St. John's?

William A. You have long known my opinions, having ever esteem'd him an Exemplary character, & by a Union with him I think you may without presumption hope for that Peace which the world can neither give nor take away. I must acknowledge, I was surprized when your kind Mother gave us this information yesterday, for we had not even heard a rumour of it—but then I have been much confined at home lately. After Church our friends from the Grove rejoiced with us, and soon after my Uncle Henry [Woodgate of Riverhill] arrived to rejoice also, so that there was I assure you a very great rejoicing, but by none more sincerely than Mr. Nouaille & cousins Peter, Philip & Anne, who all beg me to offer you their hearty congratulations & best wishes. I have the satisfaction to say, I have not seen your Mother looking so well for some time; Joy & Smiles are conducive to Health. We are to drink tea with her to-morrow, when I hope to see her equally well. I wish you were of the Party. I shall look forward to the pleasure of seeing you on Tuesday next, when I purpose with some of my family to attend the Skinners. Mr. Nouaille and all your cousins here unite with me in love and kindest remembrances to you. God bless you, my dear Julia, & believe me, yr truly affect. Cousin

Anne Nouaille.

It would not be *correct* to beg *you* to offer our congratulations to Sir William A: but I request you will present our kind regards to him, & say that I am very anxious to see him, & hope to meet him next Tuesday. Present our love & regards to my Aunt Rose. I shall congratulate her on Tuesday. Mrs. Allnutt is just arrived."

The next letter, addressed on 25th February, 1826, to Lady Ashburnham, is full of directions for dealing with measles; Mrs. Nouaille evidently paid much attention to nursing, which formed but a small part of what her charitable nature induced her to undertake. She adds, "I went to the Postern on Tuesday to meet all the Hastings Party & was happy to see them all looking so well, & so much pleased with their *visitation*. I saw my Aunt Rose, & your sister Fanny on Tuesday, I thought my Aunt was looking a great deal better than when I saw her a fortnight ago. Your sister was quite well."

Meanwhile the silk mills had been going from bad to worse; they were at their zenith in 1760, and for a great many years brought in handsome profits. Old Mr. Nouaille was a man of striking ability; but his son, though full of mechanical contrivances and ingenious schemes, could not make them turn to his advantage, and indeed lost much money over them. It is said also that one of his men, in whom he reposed implicit reliance, proved unworthy of the trust and cheated him of large sums. Trade was slack and times bad all over the country, and the conclusion of the War in 1816, instead of bringing in a millennium of prosperity, seemed to make matters worse than ever. To these causes of decline must be added several severe losses, which were caused probably by imprudent investments; for instance, Rose Woodgate writes about 1812, "We are very glad to hear Mrs. Nouaille is better; we had before heard of Mr. Nouaille's disagreeable loss: it was mentioned to us as £15,000." One of the letters states that the Nouailles themselves attributed their final misfortunes to Free Trade.

At length the receipts of the mills, having slowly dwindled, became less than the expenses of working; the mill hands, many of whom were French refugees, were discharged, and the works sold by auction and taken away. To meet their liabilities, it would seem that the Nouailles were driven to realise some of their property about 1827, though they did not sell Greatness, where they continued to live for many years. On 6th July, 1827, Mary Anne Humphry writes: "I am really much concerned to find your former intelligence, of our friends at Greatness selling their property, confirmed by your last letter. I wish to know how dear Mrs. Nouaille supports the prospect of quitting a situation that has been the theatre of her kindness and active benevolence to her friends and the poor around her for the period of so many years. To our dear Mother and ourselves she will be an immense loss, & we shall much miss and regret the Society of our young friends."

In November Miss Humphry writes, "I have another piece of intelligence to communicate that I am sure will afford you pleasure; our Greatness friends *do not* quit the neighbourhood; Mrs. Child has offered to resign the House she occupies for their accomodation, which offer Mr. Nouaille has accepted, and they intend removing into it the end of this month. The family are much pleased with this arrangement, and have no doubt they shall find it a very comfortable abode; they are all intitled to great praise for the cheerful acquiescence they have evinced under this necessary change."

It seems that this contemplated change was not made, and the Nouailles continued at Greatness for several years. A certain Mr. Joseph Harrison, on returning to Sevenoaks in 1833 after an absence of some years, and finding the mills dismantled, wrote an "Ode to the Mills" of some five hundred lines, from which we have extracted a few. They are of no value from a poetical point of view, though interesting enough in themselves.

"What gave the place its name and its renown,
And made it lively as a little town,
Were silk mills large, in which a hundred hands
Were kept employed, all at their various stands;
To wind the unwrought silk and it prepare
For weaving into crape for future wear,
The refuse from the good to separate,
And bring it from a rough to smoother state;
To tie in little knots when broke was found,
While bobbins quick and reels more slow went round.
'Twas here, in midst of constant noise and hum,
Where oftentimes songs would from workers come,
Full many a female spent her younger years,
And not a few till silvered were their hairs.
To do the harder work some men were there,
Whenever wanted, they were always near;
And when 'twas requisite to make things new,
To alterations make when 'twas the whim
Or pleased the fancy of the mind of him
Proprietor who was of factory,
Which things, when done, were oft not satisfactory.
A scheming man he was, not always wise,
For many wiser plans he would despise,
And in the end it proved that they were right;
Abortive many proved and useless quite.
From faults of this description it might be,
Or other causes difficult to see,
Business decreased, and numbers were discharged
To seek for other work, tho' not designed
For what laborious was, after confined
Within the silk Mills they had been, where light
Their occupation was; and tho' some might
Their wish obtain and get a livelihood,
Others for want of work quite idle stood.
At length the Mill was altogether stayed,
The year's returns the outlay ne'er defray'd;
And where 'twas bustle and where wheels went round
Suspended was the long accustom'd sound.
The Mill was shortly razed to the ground.
The bidders were invited to attend
And make there purchases and so to send
Away from "Greatness" all the cogs and wheels,

Bobbins and wicker baskets, spindles, reels.
 Thus when I visited the place I found
 No vestige left but spaces in the ground,
 In which the water-wheel was used to play
 That when a child I looked at with dismay.
 There also were the holes the forge had formed,
 The shop where carpenters with plane and saw
 The wood had oft prepared to stop a flaw.
 Or millwright with his gearwork often did
 Whate'er by overseer he was bid."

Traces of the ancient fabric are still visible ; and the old framework of the mills with its huge timber posts and beams are yet within the recollection of some of the inhabitants.

It will be recollected that Peter Nouaille, the eldest son, expressed a desire to enter the silk mills ; whether he ever did so or not is unknown, but for the rest of his life he pursued no occupation. Julius took Orders and obtained the curacy of Ditchling, near Brighton. Philip the youngest son entered on a mercantile venture with a Mr. Davison. The venture failed, and Philip lost his entire fortune, the whole of which he had embarked on the enterprise. This information is supplied by Miss Humphry, who wrote in July, 1831,

" I am sure you will be concerned to hear that the poor Nouailles have sustained another pecuniary loss. Mr. Davison and their son Philip have failed in business, and their names appeared as Bankrupts in the Gazette of Saturday last. It is a sad thing for Philip whose fortune was all embarked in the concern, as he will now return home without employment, or the prospect of being again engaged in the line of business for which he was intended. Poor Mrs. Nouaille evinces her usual strength of mind and good feeling on the occasion, and says her consolation under these adverse circumstances arises from the conviction that not the slightest blame attaches to her son in the transaction."

The next year Philip sailed for Canada, to seek his fortunes in a new land. Before starting he wrote the following letter :—

" London, 25th April, 1832.

My dear Father,

I have arranged every thing I hope to my satisfaction thro the kind assistance of Mr. Rayden (i), who has done everything in his power to assist me. I have secured my place in the Hebe ; she sails on the 5th of May, but it will be requisite for me to be here two days before, as I shall have plenty to do to get all my things on Board. Unfortunately Mr. Price sailed last Friday, but I have been to the Canada Company and have made arrangements with them by giving the £10 as a deposit upon the land I shall purchase of them. They engage to carry me free of expense from Quebec to York Town.

As it regards poor Daniel I have written him a letter to shew to you & the Committee and sincerely hope they will enable him to go out in the same ship with me. This I am certain of, that he will not be able to get out so cheap by any other vessel. The Captain agrees to take them all for £18 and they are to provide themselves in every thing which will be about as much more. I have secured him three

(i) Mr Rayden married one of the daughters of John Markett of Meopham, and Anne his wife the daughter of John Hooker of Tonbridge Castle ; Mrs. Markett was a sister of Mrs. William Woodgate of Summerhill. The Marketts or Marquettes were a family of Belgian refugees, now extinct but for one unmarried lady ; they possessed a good estate at Meopham Court Lodge, near Cobham, Kent. One of the daughters, as already stated, married Sir John Bayley, who sat as a judge until the age of 90, in the full possession of every faculty. The Bayley's succeeded through marriage to the estates of the family of Laurie of Maxwellton in Scotland (famed in the song "Annie Laurie"), upon which they assumed that surname.

berths upon the following conditions, that I must write up on Thursday night whether he will be able to go or not, and also to pay a deposit of £9. By a letter which Mrs. Rayden has written to-day to my Mother you will see how I have got on with my equipments, and I shall bring down with me to-morrow a list of every thing which I have bought. I devote to-morrow to calling upon Mrs. Rudge, which will conclude my labours this week, and must contrive to get every thing ready to come up on the 2nd or 3rd. Pray remember me to all at home and believe me, my Dear Father, Your affectionate Son

Philip Nouaille."

Fate decreed that his start should be unpropitious, but whether he ultimately succeeded, in accordance with the wishes, hopes and expectations of his friends, we do not know. He died at Upper Dawn, Canada, on 8th December, 1849.

In 1837 the Nouailles were still at Greatness, but decided to complete the sale of their property in that year. In February of that year they stayed for some time with Mr. Rudge, after which they visited Hastings, their favourite resort. In July they were at Greatness, when Miss Humphry paid them a visit. Miss Humphry informs us that the Nouailles hoped to spend September at Hastings, but that the period of their visit depended on previously settling the sale of their property; she feared that "the procrastinations of the Lawyers" might defer it beyond the time they anticipated. Her fears were realised, for the Nouailles did not reach Hastings till October, when Lady Ashburnham writing to Mary Ann Humphry, observes:—

"Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille and Peter joined Mrs. West at Hastings last Thursday se'night. Poor Mr. Nouaille was a good deal overcome by the journey and has been very unwell in consequence. We called on them last Thursday and were rejoiced again to see our old and valued Friends. Mr. Nouaille was recovering from his Indisposition and his Family hope he is now deriving benefit from change of air. Mrs. Nouaille made many kind enquiries after you and regretted exceedingly you had quitted the Neighbourhood before her arrival, but depends on paying you a visit at Kensington Crescent the first time she goes to London. They have promised to pass a long day here during their stay, and our cousin Peter is to dine and sleep here on Wednesday next. Mrs. Allnutt and Mr. John Woodgate [of Stonewall] are to join the Hastings party to-morrow. Mrs. West's house is rather confined for so large a party; however they appear a most happy circle, and now Mr. Nouaille is better enjoy themselves exceedingly."

On leaving Greatness, the Nouailles purchased St. John's Lodge, a smaller house, situate near the bottom of St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks. The house was filled with all the best and most curious part of their furniture, and became a veritable museum. Their means were at the time uncertain, but afterwards, as their affairs became more settled, they found themselves better off than they had anticipated. The change from Greatness to St. John's must have been great; but amidst their adversities, their equanimity was never once disturbed, and their misfortunes only served to show their virtues in stronger relief. Mrs. Nouaille once made the remark that, in their misfortunes, one of her comforts was that they continued to live surrounded and respected by all the friends of their prosperity. That they should thus continue to enjoy the esteem and friendship of all their neighbours and former acquaintance, many of whom were people of rank and wealth, is a remarkable testimony to their worth.

Mrs. Nouaille was endowed with remarkable intellectual qualities; she was a keen politician, a sound theologian, and well-informed on nearly every subject; her neighbours frequently flattered her by requesting (and following) her advice in matters of difficulty. Before Sunday Schools were generally introduced, she used to hold classes for the mill hands, and had special services for them on Wednesdays and Fridays. This was at a time when the country clergy (without any reference

to particular instances) too often lacked the zeal and energy which they now so conspicuously exhibit. Of her attention to the material needs of the mill people and her poor neighbours, her charity and generosity, enough has been already said.

In 1840 Miss Humphry was ill, and Mrs. Nouaille wrote with very particular enquiries :—

“ Thursday Evening, Janry 5th [1840].

My dear Lady Ashburnham,

. . . We are all, I thank God, well, & have pass'd a most quiet Christmas. Nothing has occur'd in the way of gaiety but the New Years Ball, which was well attended, 180, more Beaux than Belles, so that the *Benedicts* were not inlisted into the service ; few *wallflowers*, no “ stars & garters,” the only Titles Lord Homesdale, Lord Marsham, Dowager Lady Torrington, & her 2nd son Honble Mr. Byng, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce (ci-devant Miss Pitt). The young ladies introduced were Ellen Streatfeild & Mary Knox. The youngest daughter of the Revd. John Austen was to have join'd the Party, but she has been very dangerously ill, & not sufficiently recover'd to attend. Mrs. Richard Streatfeild [ci-devant Ellen Woodgate of Riverhill] went to her brother's at Tonbridge & *chaperoned* the following party—her daughter, Henry & Martha (her nephew & niece), Tom & Arthur, Fanny & Mary Knox ; Mary, Jane, Dalton & Frederick Scoones, 12. Peter & Anne joined Mrs. Curteis & Mr. & Mrs. Cox ; all agree it was a most agreeable ball, but not so Brilliant as formerly. . . . I am now in expectation of going to Mrs. Allnutt's who is under much anxiety on account of Mrs. Boissier, who certainly is much afflicted. Mr. Nouaille requests me to say he is likely to have a Presentation to Christ's Hospital next Easter, & if Mr. George Ashburnham has a son *eight years* old, Mr. Nouaille will be happy to present it to him. The Crichtons are all well. Lady Camden is in Town. Lord Amherst is not in health, & that is the Reason there was no party at Knole. You cannot think how much Seven Oaks is changed by the operations of the Rail road ; there is only one Hastings Coach & one Tonbridge Wells Coach passes through “ our Town ” now, & it is reported the Mail from Hastings will proceed from Tonbridge by the Rail. We shall become a Retired Village ; the Publicans complain sadly & also the Trade. I think we are behaving better near us, for a disagreeable *Beer shop* at the top of this Hill is given up, they had *no Custom* ; the Beer shop near the Union complain that they must retire having *No trade*—our Neighbours must be more *sober* or there wou'd not be so great a change. They are making a new line of Road from the Common to the Chapel in the Weald, to wind round the Hill, to avoid Hubbard Hill. It will cost £800 ; £400 has been subscribed by the Gentlemen in the neighbourhood & the remainder will be raised by a Tax or rate. It will be a merciful work ; so many accidents have occur'd on Hubbard Hill. Mr. Nouaille, Peter & Anne beg to unite with me in kind Love & remembrances to you, Sir William A, & Cousin Fanny, & in best wishes that you may have a Happy New Year & many, I remain, my dear Lady A, Your affectionate Cousin,
Anne Nouaille.”

Mrs. Nouaille's next letter is from Penshurst, announcing the birth of Allnutt Boissier on January 15th at half-past twelve o'clock.

“ The Grove, Penshurst, Monday, Jany 16th [1843].

My dear Lady Ashburnham,

. . . . I was much obliged by your kind Letter of the 9th inst. which was forwarded to me here. I was happy to receive from your Pen so good a report of Sir Wm A. and my cousin Fanny, & most heartily hope you have all continued as well as when you wrote. Mrs. West is a good Correspondent & she always mentions our Relatives at Broomham when she has anything to communicate ; nevertheless a letter is always acceptable. I grieve for the account you have given of poor dear Mary Anne ; I was in Hopes of a better report. Alas, how sad it is ; most sincerely

do I sympathize with you all in this distress & can only hope your next intelligence may be more comfortable. I came here last Monday to cheer up the spirits of my sister, who has suffer'd so much anxiety for her daughter. I thank God she is well & as you may suppose delighted with her *new character*."

About two months later Sir William Ashburnham died, upon which Mrs. Nouaille sent a letter both to Lady Ashburnham and Miss Humphry, who lived at Broomham. In the first she expresses the conviction that Sir William was "removed from a life of great suffering to receive the reward of a well-spent life;" the second is as follows:—

"My dear Cousin Fanny,

Greatly were we grieved at the mournful intelligence we received this Mornng from Mrs. West. Julius had mentioned in his letter from Lewes on Wednesday that dear Sir William Ashburnham was very ill, but as my sister had not said anything of his illness in her Letter on Sunday we flatter'd ourselves it was an exaggerated report. Mrs. West says dear Sir Wm A. had been ill a week; that must in some degree have prepared you for the awful change, & that will have soften'd the severity of the shock. Nevertheless such mournful events are great Trials; you have great consolation in reflecting the comfort you have been to the lamented Departed, & to your Dear Sister, particularly now under this Heavy Affliction. I wish I was nearer to you but that is a vain wish. When your mind is more composed, & you have Leisure, it will be a great Satisfaction to receive a few lines from you, & we shall be glad to hear that you & Lady Ashburnham are as well as we can expect you to be under existing circumstances. For the present Mrs. West will communicate with us. We hear our Cousin of Ferox is well again; a wonderful Recovery! St. John's, Friday March 24th."

It was not long before Mr. Nouaille himself was called upon to pay the debt of nature. He had reached the ripe age of 80 and was full of vigour to the last. The news was announced by Julius Nouaille.

"St. Johns, August 4th, 1845.

My dear Lady Ashburnham,

It is my painful duty to inform you that it has pleased the Almighty to release my dear Father from his troubles and sufferings in this life. The melancholy Event took place yesterday at half past 11 O'clock in the forenoon. He had been in a lethargy the last few hours, and died in the presence of us all, calm and peaceful, without a struggle and without a moan. We are all pretty well. My Mother & Ann bear this bereavement as well as you could expect. Give our kindest regards to Miss Humphry & believe me, my dear Lady Ashburnham, your affectionate cousin

Julius Nouaille.

We shall be obliged if you will inform the different branches of your family of this Event."

It would seem that every letter announced a death; perhaps that is why they were deemed worthy of being preserved. The next of such events was the death of Julia Knox, whose mother, Frances Knox, was the daughter of W. F. Woodgate of Summerhill.

"St. John's, Saturday April 4th [1846].

My dear Lady Ashburnham,

We were very glad to hear, from your Letter to Anne, that my Cousin Fanny was recovered from her severe attack & able to go to Mrs. West on Monday last, where I think your Presence would be a great Comfort & Consolation to our afflicted Relatives. I was pleased to hear from Mrs. Allnutt, who pass'd yesterday with us, that she had met you both at Capt. West's, that you were much recover'd from your attack of Influenza, & that Cousin Fanny was nearly well & the mourners better, under their sad Bereavement. It is very melancholy to see so many of our

youthful Relatives pass away before us ; the death of poor Julia Knox is very pitiable & a very severe Trial to her Sisters & Brothers. The Distress is increased by her removal to Ventnor. I always lament the sending the Patient away from friends, Home & Comfort, but it is a Consolation to the Survivors & Friends that every aid & assistance was render'd, & this my nephews & nieces have perform'd to the uttermost, & from that they will derive consolation. I was very sorry we did not meet in Town: the streets were so wet & it was so cold when Anne call'd the day after we received your Letter that I was afraid to accompany her, but it wou'd have given me very sincere pleasure to have seen you both. I must now change my subject for one of very great rejoicing, I mean the glorious Victory we have obtain'd in India—sure there never was so complete a defeat, the gracious hand of Providence guiding the whole. I have read the account in our Paper of yesterday with the greatest satisfaction, having heard it read *twice* before ; every part is so well express'd & Sir Henry's [Hardinge] Proclamation so admirable. It is indeed a most glorious victory. What an influence this Event will have on President Polk & indeed all Europe, for all Eyes have been upon this war. How it will strengthen our Eastern possessions. This great Victory increases the Business of our Ministers, who are fully Employ'd, & what will be the result of the two great Bills before the House I cannot imagine. I can rejoice at the Victory because I understand it, but these *Bills* are quite beyond my comprehension. The Ministers say, we shall be ruin'd if the Corn Law is *not* carried, the Protectionists say we shall be ruin'd if it is—so the Commons decree we must be *ruin'd either way*. Pray let us hear from you when you have a little leisure, as we shall like to know how you perform'd your journey & how you both are after your sojourn in Town & your return home. Mrs. West has fix'd to come to us on Friday the 24th but I hope to see her before that Day."

The next letter contains a very cordial invitation to Lady Ashburnham and Miss Humphry, offering them two apartments, and a room in the attics for their maid servant.

" The Grove, Penshurst, Tonbridge, August 12th [1846].

My dear Lady Ashburnham,

. . . Mrs. West (who came here with us) is engaged to go to Mrs. Wood at the Wells on Tuesday next, the following Monday she proceeds to Mrs. Springate, from thence she returns to Mrs. Allnutt & comes to us for a short time previous to her pitching her tent at Hastings. . . . You know Mrs. Dutton has left Seven Oaks & established herself at Penshurst, & it is rumour'd that Mr. Francis Smith of Hastings has taken it. Great are the changes at Seven Oaks ; there are few of your old friends remaining. You will be much pleased with Mr. Blackhall's House ; I have not seen it, but Peter tells me he has made it very pretty indeed. All the good people at Seal are as usual. I have no news to communicate of them. Fair Lawn is to be sold by auction in a few days. Nizels has been sold to a Mr. Goldsmid who has let it to Mr. Cartwrite the Dentist—it has been enlarged & greatly changed ; it is a large Mansion. Mr. Farmer Bailey of Leigh has been adding to Hall Place ; one Room is 70 feet long & all in proportion."

Mrs. Nouaille writes on the 26th of next February for a remedy for ague, which Lady Ashburnham had found very successful, for some poor people at Sevenoaks. She supplies a lively picture of the general poverty and distress.

" This trying winter has caused much suffering, & the sudden Deaths are most awful. Very melancholy was the Death of Mr. Heawood ; he had been declining for a long time, & there are many who are not surprized at the sudden Event. We mourn another old Friend, Mrs. Polhill, who attended Church on Ash Wednesday, when she caught a cold which brought on a Bilious attack, & on Sunday last she died at the age (the Papers say) of 77. The Family are all in great Grief ; the Event was so sudden. Miss Polhill (always an Invalid) was very poorly at the time, & is now very unwell. Are you aware that Mr. Fredk. Polhill, who had Otford, is now

curate of Hever? I see by the paper this Morn'g that Dr. Cronin has been sent to Newgate for Man-slaughter, a warning to others! There is an overwhelming tide of crime & distress & suffering; the lack of employment, the high Price of Provisions, the severity of the season, & the sickness that prevails every where, is most appalling, & the distress is great indeed. There is hardly a House in this district but there is one or two sick—either man or woman or child. Some I know are thus situated, to supply Bread for their Children have sold their wearing apparel, others their silver Tea spoons, & some have given up their Breakfasts for three weeks past. Many men have gone Fasting to their daily Work, & one man work'd all Day fasting; there is no particular complaint, but all have the same Result, extreme debility. The little children suffer dreadfully, & when a little better their feet & ankles have Black Spots upon them, which turn to eruptions which Discharge &c &c. None of our Neighbours have died, but none as yet have intirely recover'd. Your old neighbour Miss Catt, who married Hugget—lives in what we call Mercer's Row, nearly opposite to us—her husband has been out of work & has been very ill, but is better. A child 6 years old had the Mumps (which is every where) & then fever, & has now very bad feet & ankles; the Parish have not assisted them, because *he* is a Tradesman, & their distress with their six Children has been very bad indeed. Hop digging has now Commenced & I hope things may mend, with the Agricultural Labourers. The Medical Men order the bad feet to be Poulticed every six Hours, & it must be done with fine Bread. What a trial when they have not Bread enough to eat, but I will say no more on this Painful subject. We are all I thank God well: we have had cold & cough, but since the snow has disappear'd we are all very much better. I do not hear of any particular news of Seal, except that there is much sickness & distress. The Crichtons are as well as usual; Miss Crichton is in Town for a fortnight, & the poor Widow & her son are well & the Family appear to be comforted by their Presence. All as usual at Under River & Riverhead. Lady Sarah Williams has another Daughter, & all well. I wish it had been a Son. You cannot think how dull 7 Oaks has been all this Winter, not a Party or a Rout. Mrs. Lightfoot is gone to Town & deeply lamented the great Alteration that has taken Place. Lady Crichton has been very ill but is nearly well again; they all desired me to present their kindest remembrances to you & Cousin Fanny when I wrote to you."

It is safe to imagine that the Nouailles did all in their power to alleviate the current distress; but their ability had been curtailed with their means. Later in the year distress diminished, and the price of bread became less, as we learn from Mrs. Nouaille's next letter, which begins with general enquiries after the health of Lady Ashburnham and Miss Humphry, who had been ill.

"St John's, Wednesday, Augt 11th [1847].

My dear Lady Ashburnham,

My daughter with Mrs. West left Coghurst for the Grove on Wednesday last, & on Thursday Anne returned home safe & well, when for the first time I heard that my Cousin Fanny had been very ill. . . . While Mrs. West is at Hastings, I have the great Satisfaction of hearing of you, but now she is "over the Hills & far away," I seldom hear of Broomham. For the last ten weeks I have been a great Gad about, to Ditchling, Otham & Penshurst; we are now resettled at Home again. Where ever I have been I have witness'd the most promising appearance of the Crops, & our Paper this Day says the 4lb Loaf in London is 8d., & the *second Quality* 7d. How Grateful we ought to be for this great Blessing! We have been much excited by the Election, & grieve that it has so terminated. Every thing at Seven Oaks passed off most quietly, but there was great regret & great disappointment to very many. Have you seen Sir Digby Mackworth's letter to Edmund Molyneux Esqre? It was in our Paper last Sunday. I send you a squib from Mr. Gladstone's Committee at Oxford; I do not like Mr. G's Politics, but I admire the *wit* of his Party.

A Cipher they sought,
A Cipher they found;
The Value was Naught,
The Figure was *Round*.

There is no news stirring in this Neighbourhood; every thing is very quiet, exceedingly so. Lady Camden & her Babe are going on very comfortably. The Crichtons are all well. Poor Ellen Clifton married Mr. Petley's Groom some years ago; he fell sick & unable to continue in service. He has a Brother in the United States who wrote to beg they wou'd come to him & he wou'd meet them at New York, so with the assistance of many Friends (without me) they obtain'd funds sufficient to pay their Passage out & have sail'd with two Children. I believe they have been supported for a long time by Lady Crichton. Poor Ellen was looking sadly, & much changed when I saw her in the Spring; Poverty & anxiety make great havoc in Beauty. I hope they may fare better in America. Our Flower Garden is quite gone by for this year; the lack of Rain has caused most of the summer Flowers to be quite dried up & appear Dead, but it is the same all around us. We hear Mrs. Charles Woodgate has a Daughter, & all well, which is a great Blessing. Mrs. Petley & her little Girl are going on prosperously; her Sponsors are Capt. Thomas Woodgate, Jane Petley & Fanny Knox; the name of the young Lady I have yet to learn."

Mrs. Nouaille's last letter was written from Hastings to fix the day for paying a call at Broomham.

My dear Lady Ashburnham,

"Saturday, Nov. 20th, [1847].

We anticipate much Pleasure in taking Lunch with you, & if it is Convenient to you to receive us, Mrs. West myself & Co. will wait upon you on Thursday next. We propose starting soon after 11 o'Clock calling upon our Cousin Petley [Henry] & Hope to be with you before one o'Clock. As the Evenings now Commence early, & are cold, we must take our Leave at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 o'Clock, to reach Home to Dinner.

I hope we may find you & our Cousin Fanny as well as when we met at Cog-hurst. Mrs. West, myself & Co unite in Love & kind remembrances to you & your sister, & I remain, my dear Lady Ashburnham, yr affectionate Cousin

Anne Nouaille.

Shou'd Thursday be wet, or very windy, we will postpone the pleasure of waiting upon you till Friday."

Mrs. Nouaille died the 2nd of February following, aged 76, and was buried in the Nouaille vault beneath the nave of Sevenoaks Church, together with her husband and her infant son Philip; there, too, Mrs. West was afterwards buried. On the south wall of Sevenoaks Church is a marble tablet bearing the Nouaille arms, quartered with Delamare, impaling the ensign of Woodgate, and surmounted by the crest (a demi lion rampant argent issuant out of a mural crown and holding a wreath); underneath is the motto "*Prodesse quam conspici*," and the epitaph following:—

Sacred

to the memory of

Peter Nouaille Esq. late of Greatness in this parish who departed
this life August the 3rd, 1845, in the 80th year of his age;

also of

Anne Nouaille his wife, second daughter of William Woodgate Esq.
of Summerhill in the parish of Tonbridge in this County,
who departed this life Feb. the 2nd 1848 aged 74 years;

also of

Philip Nouaille, their second son, who died Dec. 12th 1803 aged three months;

also of

Philip Nouaille, their fourth son, who died at Dawn in Upper Canada
Dec. 8th 1849 aged 41 years;

also of

The Revd. Julius Nouaille B.A. their third son, Vicar of Ditchling,
in the County of Sussex, who departed this life Feb. 2nd 1855 aged 49 years.

An inscribed brass plate let into the floor marks the site of the vault.

There are several subsequent letters from the family ; one from Julius in 1854 is chiefly occupied with advice to Lady Ashburnham on Alderney cows. He died of bronchitis at Ditchling on 2nd February, 1855, and was buried at Ditchling at his particular desire. From a long letter of Anne Nouaille, written shortly afterwards, we have extracted one or two passages :—

“ Poor dear Julius wished to be buried among his flock, and therefore last Friday week he was carried to his last resting place accompanied by dear Peter, myself, our cousin Mr. Rudge, and a few of his most intimate friends in this county. William Woodgate was prevented from coming, to our great regret. Our future plans are not quite settled ; we shall probably remain here three weeks longer, Peter wishing to settle up everything before leaving ; the farm is the greatest trouble.”

Peter and Anne Nouaille, who alone survived, continued to live at St. John's ; from the remaining letters we have extracted a few passages of especial interest, and dismiss the rest with a few words.

A letter dated 13th April, 1855, is chiefly concerned with Mr. Blackhall, Vicar of Seal, and the disposition of Miss Humphry's small bequest to the poor of that parish ; Anne Nouaille adds :—

“ I am glad Mrs. Monck is better, pray give our kind remembrances to her and Mr. M. when you see them. Yesterday we had a visit from Capt. Tom Woodgate & his Wife. He is much engaged with a Phosphate Manure Company. We hear but a poor account of Mrs. Lipscombe. Mrs. Brisco I am glad to say is better & I trust in time will recover her strength.”

Mrs. Monck was the daughter of Sir William Horn the Attorney General ; her husband was the son of the Honble. Sarah Hamilton (sister of Mrs. Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove) and the Rev. George Monck.

On 8th November, 1856, she writes to inform Lady Ashburnham of the approaching consecration of St. John's Church, Sevenoaks, when Mr. Curteis was to give subscribers a Luncheon at the Crown ; she continues : “ Francis Woodgate [son of Stephen Woodgate of Pembury] left us last Friday. Septimus has been very poorly since he has been at Coghurst and has consulted Mr. Gardiner, who hopes to benefit him. It is very sad he suffers so much. I have had no intelligence from my Aunt since you were here, but hope no news is good news.”

Her next letter is long :—

“ St. Johns, Jan. 10th [1857].

My dear Lady Ashburnham,

. . . We were at a party at Riverhill last Thursday. The entertainment consisted of dissolving views and artificial fire works. There we met Mr. Warde and some of the Woodgates from Swaylands. They gave a poor account of William's eldest son Hamilton, who looks sadly but does not complain of anything in particular. . . . Mrs. Streatfeild (the Widow) of Penshurst is dangerously ill, and fears are entertained of her recovery ; she has many symptoms like her sister Mrs. Sweeting who died a few months since. Our Neighbours are much as usual. Mrs. Lightfoot was dangerously ill in the Autumn and is now much alter'd, aged and shrunk from what you last saw her. Ld. Amhurst is very infirm and quite confined to the house. How alarming are the Garrott robberies in London ; we hear 4 took place in one week, at the top of Devonshire Place (h) in the new Road. I hope the “ ticket of leave ” system will be done away with or it really will not be safe to walk about. I am sorry to say we have a great number of people in this parish out of employment, more than has been known for years, and no one appears able to account for it. The weather having been open, the distress has been very great, and many appli-

(h) The Briscos' town house was in Devonshire Place ; both Anne Nouaille and Lady Ashburnham frequently stayed there, and were thoroughly familiar with the spot.

cations are made only for "Bread;"—poor creatures, I cannot think what they will do, for the little shops will not trust them. Last week we heard that poor Mrs. Charles Woodgate was safely confined with a Daughter, on the 20th November, and was expected in England the end of this month. She had received previously the letters with the account of Charles' illness, but the fatal news had not arrived when she wrote. What a sad journey home she will have!"

The fatal news was, of course, his death, which occurred at sea off Aden on 30th October, 1856. The next letter announces the death of Mrs. James Eldridge West, formerly Alicia Ashburnham. Anne Nouaille says of her, writing on December 31st, 1859:—

"Her health had been so precarious that you could not have been very much unprepared for the sad intelligence. Her declining years have been so melancholy that it is indeed a happy change to her. William and Alicia must feel their loss more deeply than the other members of the family, for they have been most devoted to her, and have fulfilled their filial duties most exemplarily. . . . My Brother has had a very nice letter from Henry Petley, giving a good account of himself; the weather had set in severely and he was some what short of firewood, but hoped to get some from a ship just arrived. He says he is in pretty good health, as may be supposed from his "having catechised children before Church, taken two services, walked 7 miles out and home, 14 miles, with snow returning" in one day, a pretty good day's work. He desires his kind remembrances to you. The poor, he says, have no idea of any thing being given to them; consequently there are no beggars."

Her next letter, dated 10th August, 1861, congratulates Lady Ashburnham on her niece Julia Humphry's intended marriage with Mr. Tucker of Birkenhead, who she thinks will give her "a good and able protector and comfortable home. . . . I am sorry to say Capt. (now Major) John Woodgate has left Liverpool more than 2 or 3 years since, and is residing in Cheshire. Had he been at Liverpool I am sure he would have been very glad to have seen Julia. . . . You have doubtless seen in the Papers the loss the Parish has sustained by the death of our good Rector Mr. Curteis. Altho from his precarious state of health this sad event might have been expected at any time, yet it has been a great shock to every one. He had not been quite so well the last fortnight, but nothing occurred to anticipate a fatal result till about 11 o'Clock on Friday night, when a difficulty of breathing came on, and he most peacefully expired in half an hour, appearing as if he really fell asleep, and was perfectly conscious to the last. Dear Mrs. Cox has great consolation in reflecting how devoted she has been to him in her attentions and in his exemplary character. He was such a good man in every respect. We have lost a most invaluable Friend and like numbers of others most sincerely mourn him. Seven Oaks will not be the same to us now he is removed, and we shall sadly miss our long established intimacy at the Rectory. You will be glad to hear Henry Petley safely arrived in Scotland on the 30th of July, having left St. Johns, Newfdland, the 16th previously. He is staying with Major & Mrs. P. Petley, and talks of taking some duty in Edinburgh for the winter. We as well as the Riverhead party had been very anxious about him as no tidings were heard of him for some time, and he was expected to arrive the beginning of July. He writes word he is quite well but very thin."

In 1864 Peter Nouaille died. His death was announced to Mrs. Frewen (formerly Mrs. Brisco) in the following letter.

"St Johns, March 6th [1864].

My dearest Fanny,

It has pleased the Almighty in his infinite wisdom to release my dearest Brother from his sufferings this morning at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 o'Clock. He was taken worse yesterday about 2 in the afternoon, the breathing most distressing, and it was difficult to keep

life in him, but he rallied and even had a little sleep during the night, but he gradually sank and peacefully expired without a struggle or a groan. He retained his consciousness to within two hours of his death. He bore his illness with the greatest patience and resignation, not a murmur escaped him even when sadly oppressed in Breathing, his only exclamation being Oh dear ! You said you would come and see me ; it would be a great comfort, but I shall not have a bed ready till the middle of the week, it will require so much airing. I have sent over to Lady Hancock, who has promised to come and stay with me, and I can poke her into dear Peter's little bed. Sir Samuel I cannot take in. Please thank Mr. Frewen for his kind letter. I know he had a great and sincere regard for my dear Departed, who only on Friday was speaking of him and saying, " Mr. Frewen was not known nor fully appreciated." I have asked Charles Petley to kindly help me in business matters. Please let Lady Ashburnham know of my sorrow and ask her to tell Mrs. Tucker."

This letter was enclosed by the Frewens in a note to Lady Ashburnham, which intimated their intention of starting for Sevenoaks that very afternoon to endeavour to be of some assistance.

Her two last remaining letters were preparatory to visiting Broomham ; she mentions that she only succeeded to two Trusts as executor to her brother. Of these he was the sole surviving trustee. One of them was that of Lady Ashburnham's marriage settlement, of which Francis Woodgate of Ferox Hall, James Eldridge West, and Mr. Palmer had been the other trustees.

Anne Nouaille continued to live at St. John's, where she died in November, 1897, in extreme old age. She was the last of the Huguenot family of Nouaille ; but though the name is extinct, the race still survives in the descendants of her aunt Mrs. Rudge. She died universally respected by all who knew her. She was rather small, and of striking features ; at the time of the Women's Collection she presented a petition to the Queen, who was greatly and favourably struck with her appearance, and made many enquiries about her. One anecdote must be related :—A lady, who knew her well, was engaged in conversation with another, who remarked that Miss Nouaille was exactly like the pictures of the old French aristocracy. " Naturally," was the reply, " she is descended from the old French nobles."

CHAPTER XIV.

WOODGATE OF SPRING GROVE, PEMBURY.

Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove, the second son of William Woodgate of Summerhill, born 1771, was for some time engaged to Susanna Allnutt. There had already been a "double marriage" between the two families, but for some reason the engagement was broken off, and Miss Allnutt married John Garthwaite. Miss Allnutt was considered plain; Garthwaite and Henry Woodgate were both remarkably handsome.

About 1800 William Woodgate proposed to establish Henry at Pembury, and offered him the choice between the houses of Old Hawkwell and Spring Grove. The former was a very large, and somewhat ruinous, moated mansion lying down in the valley; the latter was then a farm house known as the Church Farm, much smaller, but exceedingly pretty and beautifully situated on the high ground near the Church. Henry selected Spring Grove, which was altered and enlarged, and Hawkwell was demolished.

Hawkwell and a great part of the Pembury estate had been purchased by William Woodgate in 1788 (see p. 323) from the co-heiresses of the ancient family of Wybarne, which had held it since the reign of Henry VIII. (See Hasted). There is a pen and ink sketch by Streatfeild in the British Museum, beneath which is written:

" Why borne ? To the glory of God.
 Why borne ? To the blessing of men.
 Why borne ? To the hope of Eternal life,
 Who are borne in Christ again, Quoth Wyborne."

Streatfeild entitles his drawing "The mansion of Great Hawkwell, from a rude drawing made shortly before it was pulled down. T.S. 1829."

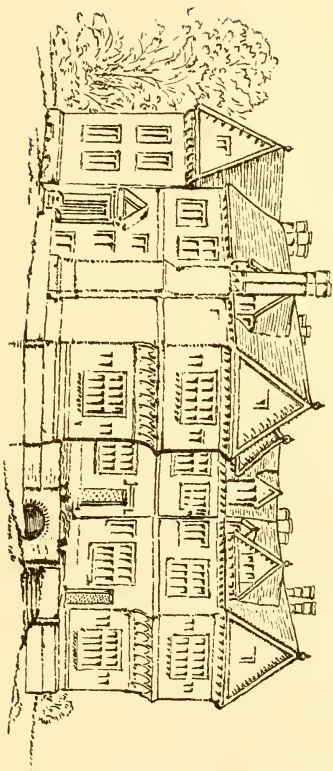
The rude drawing was sent to Streatfeild by John Scoones, with the accompanying letter:—

" Dear Sir,

I have at last got the drawing of Hawkwell which I spoke of. The young man who drew it (when a boy) cannot recollect what he copied it from. He lives with a saddler at Seven Oaks and his name is Collins.

From what I collect of an old servant on the farm (now in Pembury almshouse) the drawing is generally correct. The place was moated, with a bridge opening into a paved court. The bridge was of brick, with walls and stone foundation, the water clear without rushes or reeds except about the bridge where there were Water cresses. The walls of the house were plaister with rough cast and broken glass upon them, the windows diamond paned or quarried, the roof tiled. I could not make out from the old man exactly how the upper windows in front projected, but if you think the subject worth your pains, your knowledge in this sort of architecture will I presume enable you to put this to rights. The side door seems a puzzle. I write this more in haste than finish as Mr. Harvey waits to take it to you. Believe me, dear sir, with best regards to Mrs. Streatfeild,

Yours very faithfully
 John Scoones."



OLD HAWKWELL, Pembury, the property of William Woodgate, Esq.

Wisely or not, Hawkwell (a) was taken down and the timbers employed by William Woodgate, who was Lord of the Manor, in the construction of a Town Hall for Tonbridge. The old market house or town hall appears, from a memorandum of Sir Roger Twysden of his having paid 40s. to Thomas Lake of Hadlow which he had promised to Sir Humphry Miller towards the erecting of the same, to have been built in 1671. It was very small, and may be compared to a lych gate covering a small space enclosed by a brick wall three or four feet high. The space between the wall and the "lych gate" roof was open. Beside it was a small tower with brick base for about six feet, then tiled, surmounted by a bell turret and clock.

The new town hall was a much finer building, standing in High Street and supported on arches. At the time of erection the arches were filled in, but the masonry was subsequently removed and the arches thrown open; there was an upper storey containing a large room. This building was taken down about 1901.

Spring Grove was altered and new roads to it were made (see p. 372), especially through the Pembury Walk Woods. Henry's sister Maria writes in June, 1800: "You cannot imagine how much Spring Grove is improved within these three weeks; I think for the size of it there cannot possibly be a prettier place."

And the following December Mrs. Allnutt writes:—

"When I was at Summerhill I rode over to Spring Grove; upon my word the House looks very clean and pretty, and I think Harry's intended road through the Church Wood will be very delightful. I begin to think there is something between Harry and a *pleasant month*; I watched them at the Concert and fancied I saw something more than common, but I *May* be mistaken."

And Maria Woodgate observes the following March:—

"We go on much after the old plan here, I do not see much variation in our plan of living. We eat, drink, laugh, cry, ride, walk, sleep, nod, doze, dream and snore as usual, except Harry, who all at once is grown particularly fond of *musings* in the *grove*, or wandering by a *purling rill*; "he eats little, thinks much and in thinking sighs," as Scrub says. Some say one thing and some another, but for

(a) Hawkwell, like other old houses, had its own ghost story. Here is one version. In the seventeenth or early eighteenth century the occupier of Hawkwell, Roe, died leaving a widow and two daughters. One of the daughters, Esther by name, made a run-away match with an adventurer at one of the London Churches in the Fields (St. Giles or St. Martin's). His only object was to possess himself of her money in which he succeeded before long, and having done so rendered her life so miserable that she determined to escape. She accordingly started off for Pembury one bitter winter's morning with her baby, on foot.

Now it seems that Mrs. Roe and her daughters were in the habit of celebrating some particular day, a birthday perhaps, with special festivities. The first one after the run-away match had passed off as usual. The next year however the festivities did not take place at Hawkwell, but at some other house in the village; Hawkwell had been damaged by fire, and was boarded up for repairs. Mrs. Roe had a presentiment that her daughter Esther would appear in time for the dinner, and would not allow the company to begin. Hour after hour passed, and still they waited. Mrs. Roe was very old and infirm. Worn out with anxiety, and perhaps with fasting, she suddenly fell forward in a fainting fit, exclaiming "She has come, I knew she would come." She never recovered, and died in a few hours.

Esther had, as a matter of fact, set out that morning. She arrived at nightfall at the old mansion, utterly exhausted. She found the place deserted and the entrance boarded up. Unable to get in, overcome with cold and hunger, and too wearied to move another step, she sank down in the mud, where she was found the next morning, clasping her child to her, both frozen to death.

Esther's ghost has since been seen at rare intervals. Once, about forty years ago, it was observed by a travelling tinker, who burst into the nearest house (an inn, where a merry party was proceeding) half dead with terror. He explained to the astonished company what he had seen, and it appeared that he was a perfect stranger to the place and to the story.

This story was related to us some years ago by Mr. W. B. Woodgate. If there are any mistakes or omissions, it must be attributed to forgetfulness on our part after this lapse of time. Not the least interesting part of the story is that the ghost no longer appears on the original date, but has kept to the *old style* of the calendar!

my part I think he is in something that begins with an L, or in other words that he is in Love. Symptom the first : he is uncommonly silent, that's a sign of Love. Symptom the 2 : he is monstrous absent and very cross, that's a sure sign ; and symptom the third and last, he is never happy or contented but when he is on the other side of Hadlow turnpike gate. Now after my saying this, I suppose your *wise head* will immediately imagine that *May* flowers are springing up *again*, but you are far from the mark. Miss Nash is the Goddess of his idolatry, but this is all nonsense ; I will venture to say he is as *heart whole* at this moment as when you left him." [The Mays lived at Hadlow Castle].

There is a description of an entertainment, given by Henry at Spring Grove, contained in a letter of Mrs. Nouaille, his sister, of 29th March, 1802 :—

" Last Wednesday, the 24th, myself and master went to Summer Hill where we met the *South Parkites* to be in readiness for Harry's gala the next day, & of all the merry days I ever spent in this life I think last Thursday was the most so. We were sixteen in the *waggon*, viz. *appearances* four, Father, Mother, Ben [Maria Woodgate], Boman, Fanny, Anna, my Master and self, Pompey, Alicia West and Aunt Sally and James West ; the Greentrees [the *Mercers* of Green Trees] and *Gips* met us there. The roads were very good and we arrived at Spring Grove at 4 o'clock in the best humour possible ; in all we mustered twenty six and we all dined in Harry's front parlour. There was a side table in one of the recesses, but the table being placed across the room held the whole party extremely well. We had an excellent repast and after supper there was a good deal of *bachelor's fare* handed about, but I came in for very little of the *oyster sauce* ; Aunt Sally had much more than *her share*. I never saw so merry a party and one and all agreed they never spent a pleasanter day. I never saw Allnutt and Fanny in such spirits and we kept it up till two in the morning when we thought it right to order our *sociable*. Boman and Anna had not exerted their *gem* as we expected they would upon such an occasion, therefore as all the rest at Summer Hill were just returned from Parnassus (*b*), the Major led off and was followed by Fanny, Maria, Allnutt, Harry, myself and *mate*, and seven better songs upon such an occasion were never warbled. Allnutt, Fanny, my Master and Ben and part of mine were encored, and the company were so mightily tickled by some of them that the songs were obliged to be stopped while they indulged their laughter. I only regretted you were not one of the party as I am sure you would have been very much entertained, and I never knew a set go off so well."

Henry, like his brothers, was in the Yeomanry. At first he was lieutenant in his brother's troop ; but the latter was promoted to a Majority, and Henry received his captaincy. His commission signed by the Lord Lieutenant and endorsed—" Lt. Hy Woodgate, Captain, Tunbridge Yeomanry Cavalry " has been preserved.

" By Charles Earl of Romney, Viscount Marsham, Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Kent and of the City and County of Canterbury &c. &c. To Lieut: Henry Woodgate

By Virtue of the power and authority to me given by a warrant from His Majesty under his Royal Signet and Sign Manual bearing date the twenty second day of May 1804 I the said Charles Earl of Romney do in His Majesty's name by these presents constitute appoint and commission you the said Lieut: Woodgate to be a Captain of the Tunbridge Troop of Yeomanry Cavalry commanded by Major Woodgate to bear date the 5th May 1804 but not to take rank in the army except during the time of the said Corps being called out into actual service. You are therefore to take the said troop into your care and charge and duly to exercise as well the officers as soldiers thereof in arms and to use your best endeavours to keep them in good order and discipline who are hereby commanded in His Majesty's name to obey you as

(b) It almost appears as if each one wrote his own songs for the occasion, in which case they would certainly be very amusing and witty.

their Captain ; and you are to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time as you shall receive from His Majesty your Major or any other your superior officer according to the rules and discipline of war in pursuance of the trust reposed in you. Given under my hand and seal the 16th day of January in the Forty fifth year of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain King Defender of the Faith &c. and in the year of our Lord 1805.

Romney."

Henry Woodgate married in 1804 the Hon. Georgina Hamilton, second daughter of the Right Hon. Viscount Boyne of Stackallan.

Her fortune on marriage consisted of £10,000. William Woodgate, on his side, settled a perpetual rent charge of £200 a year, issuing out of the Pembury estate, upon Henry Woodgate for life, then upon Henry's wife for life, then upon the children of the marriage on the usual trusts. This deed was dated 15th June, 1804, and was made between William Woodgate of the first part, Henry Woodgate of the second part, Lord Boyne and the Hon: Georgina Hamilton of the third part, and the Rev. William Gordon and Peter Nouaille [of Greatness] of the fourth part.

Lord Boyne had built his house on Mount Ephraim, at the Wells. Like his son-in-law, he was in the Yeomanry. He joined the Tunbridge Wells Troop in 1797, and in 1807 he appears to have been Captain. A newspaper paragraph in June, 1807, relates the celebration at the Wells of the King's Birthday :—

"At Tunbridge Wells on June 4, Viscount Boyne's troop of yeomanry fired a feu de joie in honour of the day ; and in the evening a large number of the gentry assembled at the Upper Rooms, patronized by Viscountess Boyne, and finished the auspicious day by assisting at a Ball."

And again, in 1810,

"His Majesty's birthday was celebrated by the company at Tunbridge Wells by a very splendid ball under the patronage of Lady Boyne. Lord Boyne's Troop of Yeomanry Cavalry fired three good volleys on the occasion, and retired to drink His Majesty's health at the Kentish Tavern."

In 1815 Lord Boyne resigned, and was succeeded in the Captaincy by James Cranbourne Strode. It seems that he left the neighbourhood about that time. When the Troop was first formed, it was suggested that Richard Cumberland, the Dramatist, should be one of the officers, an honour which he declined. In his Memoirs he says of this Troop :—

"Men of these principles could not fail to be respectable and they are now serving with credit to their Captain and themselves under the command of Lord Viscount Boyne, who resides at Tunbridge Wells, and, together with the duties attendant on his commission as commander of this respectable corps, executes the office of magistrate for the county, not less amiable and honourable in his private character than useful and patriotic in his public one."

The wedding was to take place on Saturday, the 16th June, at Pembury ; the Rev. Thomas Harvey was to officiate. Afterwards the Bride and Bridegroom and their friends were to dine at Summerhill (c).

(c) The following particulars are from leaves, in our possession, evidently torn out of some family Bible :

"Henry Woodgate Esqr., of Spring Grove, second son of William Woodgate Esqr., of Somerhill, married the 16th of June, 1804, Georgina Hamilton, second daughter of Viscount Boyne. Georgina Martha their daughter, born the 15th of February 1806, died August 11th, 1818. Frances their daughter born August 9th, 1807. Henry Woodgate married secondly Clare daughter of the Rev. Thomas Harvey of Cowden. Clare their daughter born May 6th, 1816."

There are in the possession of Miss E. J. Woodgate, at 9, the Lawn, St. Leonards, portraits of Lady Boyne, Miss Hamilton, and Henry Woodgate. The latter is a large full length painting representing him with his gun and dogs, and a brace of pheasants at his feet. A propos of this, Henry was a capital sportsman. His gamekeeper for some years was John Budger.

There is also a large life-sized portrait of the two daughters, Georgina and Frances, as children, in white dresses and red leather shoes. Beside them is a bird cage, and one of them is fondling a dove. In the background a storm is seen to be brewing. It is related (probably without truth) that Georgina got wet through in consequence of the storm and that she died from the effects of it.

The second paper, evidently in the handwriting of Lady Boyne, is as follows :

Sarah Hamilton, born at Lodge 4th February, 1776 between two and three o'clock in the morning.

Gustavus Hamilton, born at Stackallan 12th April, 1777, between the Hours of twelve and one in the day.

Richard Somerville Hamilton, born at Stackallan the first June, 1778, at four o'clock in the morning.

Elizabeth Mary Hamilton, born the 19th of July, 1780, at Stackallan between the Hours of five and six o'clock in the evening. She died in Ireland in 1784.

Richard Somerville Hamilton died at Edinburgh, January 8th, 1809.

Gustavus Hamilton married August 4th, 1796, Harriet only daughter of Benjamin Baugh Esqr., of Ludlow.

Georgina Hamilton married Henry, second son of Wm. Woodgate Esqr., of Summerhill, Kent, June 16th, 1804.

Georgina Martha Woodgate born at Pembury, Saturday Febr'y. 15th, 1806, between the hours of three and four in the afternoon, christened 19th May, 1806. Godfather, Viscount Boyne; Godmother, Honourable Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Woodgate.

Frances Woodgate was born at Pembury Saturday 9th August, 1807, between the Hours of two and three in the afternoon. Godfather, William Woodgate Esqr., Godmother, Lady Boyne.....(*torn*)."

There is another leaf, with the note of the marriage, birth of the two children, and the death of Georgina Martha on 11th August, 1818.

(d) As no pedigree of these Harveys has, so far as we are aware, ever appeared in print, we take this opportunity of giving some account of the family. The first ancestor was Richard Harvey of Tilmanstone, Lord of the Manors of Great and Little Barfield (Barville) who died in 1472, leaving, by Julian his wife :

1. *John*.

2. Robert, d. 1507, left issue by Maryon his wife, John, and Thomas m. Joan....., and died 1554.

3. Joanna.

4. Christian.

John of Barfield, the eldest son, died in 1479 leaving issue by Margaret his wife

1. *Robert*.

3. Richard, s. p.

2. Thomas, s. p.

4. Nicholas.

Robert of Barfield, the eldest son, left issue by Rose his wife

1. *Robert*.

3. Isabella.

2. Julian.

4. Joanna.

Robert of Norburn, the eldest son, died in 1568, leaving issue by Margery his wife

1. Thomas Harvey of Eythorn, m. 1560 Julian Dann, and died in 1580, leaving numerous issue.

2. Robert.

3. *Richard*.

The third son, Richard of Norburn, married in 1568 Elizabeth Awstyn (who d. 1618) and d. 1600, leaving

1. *Thomas*.

2. Richard, m. 1594 Elizabeth Verrian and had issue Thomas, who left issue by Ursula his wife; William; Peter; Richard; Valentine; and Elizabeth.

3. Peter, left issue William, Elizabeth, Barbara, and Ursula.

4. Valentine, m. Frances.....

5. George.

6. Elizabeth, m. Richard Soms.

Thomas of West Studdal, eldest son, m. Elizabeth Papper widow (who d. 1660), and died in 1660, leaving issue

Mrs. Woodgate died on Christmas Eve, 1808. Ozias Humphry writes, "Altho' I never had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove, yet never having heard her name mentioned but with much credit to her, I never can reflect upon her loss but with sorrow."

In four years time Henry Woodgate became engaged to Clare Harvey, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Harvey of Redleafe, Penshurst (*d*). Miss Humphry writes on 25th September, 1812 :

"Your letter was full of information not a syllable of which had reached us

1. Richard of Selson, b. 1600, m. 1st Sarah..... who died in 1644, leaving issue, and secondly Jane Barker.

2. Thomas, d. 1673.

3. *Henry*.

4. Luke, b. 1611, d. 1651, m. Elizabeth.....

5. Lawrence, b. 1616, m. 1646 Elizabeth Taylor.

6. Catherine, m. Barker.

7. Elizabeth, m. Sutton.

Henry of Kittington, third son, b. 1609, d. 1672, married Martha Rogers who d. 1676, leaving issue

1. *Thomas*.

2. Richard, m. Mary.....and left issue.

3. John, d. 1714, leaving issue by Mary his wife.

5. James.

8. Martha.

6. Henry.

9. Mary.

7. Thomas

10. Elizabeth.

Thomas Harvey, left issue by Martha his wife.

1. *Thomas*.

2. Martha, m. William Loode.

3. Thomas.

6. Elizabeth.

4. William.

7. Mary.

5. Anne.

8. Judith.

Thomas Harvey of Deal, the eldest son, left issue by Elizabeth his wife, *Thomas Harvey* of Tonbridge, b. 1732, d. 1779, leaving issue by Charlotte his wife, youngest daughter and co-heiress of the Rev. William Davis, Vicar of Tonbridge,

1. Rev. Thomas Harvey of Redleafe, Penshurst, Vicar of Cowden.

2. William Thomas Harvey of Hilden House, Tonbridge, married 9th December, 1786, at Tattersfield, Surrey, Ann Staples, and left issue (amongst others) Henry, Lieut. 24th Regt. Native Infantry, Madras, d. 1815; and L. M. Harvey, second daughter, m. at Tonbridge 18th October, 1814. E. Morris, Surgeon 3rd Lanes. Regt.

3. Charlotte.

4. Frances

5. Sophia, m. Illingworth.

The pedigree is completed by extracts from the Harvey family Bible :

"Thomas, son of Thomas (buried at Tonbridge 17th July, 1810, aged 73) and Charlotte Harvey, born December 6th, 1754, died an infant. (Charlotte bu. at Tonbridge, 3rd June, 1779, aged 47).

"Charlotte dau. of Thomas and Charlotte Harvey, born September 2nd, 1756 [died 24th January, 1834].

"Thomas son of Thomas and Charlotte Harvey, born 5th December, 1757 [died July 6th, 1835].

"Sophia, daughter of Thomas and Charlotte Harvey, born 5th December, 1757 [Mrs. Illingworth].

"Harriet, dau. of T. and C. H. born 16th May, 1762, died an infant.

"Frances, dau. of T. and C. H., born 23rd December, 1765 [Mrs. Browne, died at Penshurst]."

There is another set of extracts, from a different Bible, belonging to the said Thomas (eldest son), who married Amelia daughter of John Bachelor. John Bachelor died 15th April, 1791, buried at Spitalfields; his wife Amelia died 17th October, 1802, and was buried at the same place.

"Amelia, daughter of Thomas and Amelia Harvey, privately baptised 23rd December, 1790, born 5th December.

"Clare, dau. of T. and A., privately bapt. 31st July, 1793, born 30th July.

"John, son of T. and A., bapt. 18th September, 1801, born 26th July, died 7th April, 1802, bu. at Cowden.

"Clare, above, married Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove, Pembury, 3rd March, 1813.

"Henry, their son, born 24th January, 1815, died 21st May, 1815.

"Clare, their daughter, born 6th May, 1816.

"Amelia, above, married John Sparke of the Stock Exchange, London, 28th June, 1814.

"Mrs. H. Woodgate married at Bersted, Sussex, ye Rev. Thomas Streatfield of Charts Edge, Westerham, 29th September, 1823.

"Thomas, above, married Emily Jane Nunn, at Tooting, Surrey, 26th February, 1824.

before. We were quite surprized to hear of Henry Woodgate's match. We think it a very good one in every respect but the *too great* disparity of their years. What little I have seen of my *cousin elect* I like extremely."

Henry was born in 1771, Miss Harvey in 1793.

On 1st February, 1813, Mary Anne Humphry writes:—

"We hear that Miss Clare Harvey's wedding is to take place early in the month of March. The Family are going to town this week to make the necessary Preparations."

The marriage settlement was dated 26th June, 1813. The trustees were Thomas Harvey jun., John Woodgate of Stonewall, and John Ham. Henry Woodgate charged Spring Grove with a perpetual rent charge of £350 a year on the usual marriage trusts.

Clare Harvey's fortune was considerable, but the whole of it was spent in rescuing Henry from the position into which he had drifted in consequence of the failure of the Tonbridge Bank (see p. 382).

The Rev. Thomas Harvey of Redleafe, LL.B. (Pemb. College, Oxford, 1778) was Patron of the living of Cowden, to which he was instituted in 1785. Redleafe had been left to him by the will of Abraham Spencer, Sheriff in 1736 (e). It was a beautiful, old-fashioned white house with gardens that were universally celebrated. There was also a small house known as Little Redleafe (referred to in Hasted's footnote), which Harvey purchased and converted into an entrance lodge. The present Redleafe was erected not many years ago. It is larger than its predecessor but not nearly so beautiful.

He was succeeded in Redleafe by his son, Thomas, who was instituted Rector of Cowden in 1835 and died in 1878, aged 82. It was he who "stopped the fight" near Edenbridge. Prize fights, though strictly forbidden, were not infrequent; and were attended by the greatest ruffians in the Kingdom, as well sometimes as others more refined. Harvey, a magistrate for the County, hearing there was going to be a prize fight near Edenbridge (to which the principals and spectators were conducted by special train which stopped intermediately between two stations, so as to avoid the police), boldly rode up alone just at the start and forbade them to proceed. It was almost as much as his life was worth, and the fact of his being a clergyman would probably make matters worse; but his attitude was so determined that he compelled them to desist and succeeded in dispersing the crowd. (Here's a fine subject for a painting!)

In 1814 Mary Anne Humphry writes, on 22nd December:

"I went with Mrs. West to Pembury on Tuesday; we sat an hour and a half

"Thomas, their son, born 24th January, 1826, publicly baptised at Cowden, 13th January, 1827.

Henry Gordon, their son, born 2nd November, 1827, bapt. at Cowden 19th June, 1828."

The family arms of Harvey are "Argent, two bars counter nebulée sable; on a chief of the second three crosses patonce fitchée or." These arms were borne by Sir Nicholas Harvey, knighted at Tewkesbury, as also by Sir Walter Harvey, Lord Mayor in 1266. The elder branch of the Harveys of Tilmanstone appear to have dropped their paternal coat and assumed that of their maternal ancestor, Awstyn, Astwyn, Astyn or Ashetyn (query, Austen), in imitation of whom, and in ignorance of their right, the Harveys of Tonbridge also bore the coat of Awstyn. A patent of the crest was granted by Sir Gilbert de Rich, Knt., Garter King of Arms, in 1572 to Richard Ashetyn of West Peckham; but the lions paws were *couped*, not erased.

The arms of Awstyn, as displayed in various Harvey hatchments at Tonbridge and elsewhere, are "On a chevron gules between three lions gambes erased sable as many crescents or." Crest: two lions gambes erased sable, armed gules, supporting a crescent or.

- (e) The Spencers of Redleafe were descended from those of St. Albans. Gilbert, great grandson of William Spencer of Redleafe, was Steward of the lands of Robert Earl of Leicester (the Sidneys) at Penshurst. He was also traditionally Gentleman of the Bedchamber to Charles II, and the King's camp watch and other memorials of his station remained in possession of the Harveys. He was also General Receiver of the Land Tax in Kent. He married Elizabeth, eldest sister and coheir of Oliver Combridge of Newhouse (see pedigree of Combridge), and died in 1709, aged 80, leaving (amongst other issue) Abraham, of Redleafe, the only surviving son, who died unmarried in 1740, aged 60.

with Mrs. Henry Woodgate, and afterwards called at the Vicarage. Mr. Henry Woodgate is one of the Stewards for the Ball here on Wednesday, and he requested me to tell you he hop'd Fanny and yourself would contrive to come to it as he should bring *two Beaux* who would have great pleasure in dancing with you."

Henry Woodgate was killed in 1818 by a fall from his horse a day or so after Christmas. He was endeavouring to open a gate without dismounting, when the horse suddenly started, and threw him from the saddle. His foot caught in the stirrup and he was dragged along the ground for a considerable distance before some one stopped the horse and released him. He was at once taken to Spring Grove, and died from his injuries a few hours later. There is a marble tablet in Pembury Church with this inscription :

"This Tablet
was erected in memory of Henry Woodgate
Esqre. as a last tribute of affection and
esteem by one to whom his memory
is endeared. He died at Spring Grove
on the 27th of December, 1818."

He had three children surviving at the date of his will, Georgina Martha, Frances and Clare. By such will dated 18th July, 1817, he appointed his brother the Revd. Stephen Woodgate, his brother in law Thomas Harvey, and his friend James Yeraway of Carshalton, trustees ; he left to each of his godchildren, Rosa daughter of W. F. Woodgate, Ann daughter of Peter Nouaille, and William son of the Revd. Stephen Woodgate, £50 ; he devised his Manors of Pepingbury Magna and Parva, Great Hawkwell and Little Hawkwell Farms and Church Farm then Spring Grove with the Mansion house &c. erected on part of the said last mentioned farm wherein he then dwelt with the Church Wood, Great Horse Pasture Wood, Hog Wood, Crab Wood, Yew Tree Wood, Stiller Wood, &c. as left to him by his father, and also a farm near Hawkwell which he purchased of Peter George to his trustees upon Trust to pay out of the rents and profits the sums secured by his settlement, a further rent charge of £50 to his widow (in addition to the £350 a year) and the residue including his personalty to his daughters, but so that they should bring their shares into hotchpot to equalise the division.

The will was witnessed by Mary Ann Viner, the Governess ; William Scoones junr ; and John Scoones ; and proved at London 3rd February, 1819.

Georgina Martha Woodgate died four months before her father. Mrs. Woodgate and the two surviving daughters continued to live at Spring Grove. Clare, the youngest, had an exquisite voice and sometimes entertained her mother's friends by standing on the table and singing to them. She left Spring Grove when she was seven, so she must have been very young.

Mrs. Woodgate, in 1823, married the Revd. Thomas Streatfeild, F.S.A. of Charts Edge, Westerham. Spring Grove was let (f).

On this marriage, Mrs. Streatfeild took her daughter Clare Woodgate to live with her at Charts Edge, and her step-daughter was brought up by the Wests at the

(f) The advertisement that appeared in the papers was as follows :—" Spring Grove, in the parish of Pembury, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the London Road to Hastings. To be let on lease, with immediate possession of a respectable family residence called " Spring Grove ", pleasantly situated at Pembury 34 miles from London, being a most comfortable family mansion consisting of an entrance hall, a breakfast and dining parlour, and drawing room, gentlemen's dressing room, footman's pantry, excellent kitchen, wash house, brew house, good cellars, laundry, dairy, and every domestic office ; also seven bedrooms and five attics ; excellent garden with a wall particularly well covered with choice fruit trees, and shrubbery, a capital corn and hay barn, cow lodge, two coach-houses, stabling for 7 horses, with 91 a. of land, $5\frac{1}{2}$ a. of which is arable, the rest being paddock and pasture, free of rectorial and vicarial tythes by a payment of £2 annually to the Vicar of the parish. With which will also be let if required the extensive Manors of Pepenbury Magna and Pepenbury Parva, a good carriage road from the London Road to the house, and excellent furniture in the house which may be taken at a Valuation. For further particulars apply to Messrs. Scoones & Son. Solrs. Tonbridge, and at the Vicarage House, Pembury, where tickets to view may be had."

Postern, Mrs. West, Frances' aunt, having no children of her own. Spring Grove was restored and improved by Decimus Burton, one of the Burtons of Mabledon and the founder of St. Leonards. His other works included the building of Mrs. Allnutt's house at Penshurst, Coghurst, and the restoration and enlargement of Falconhurst (now known as Claydene), Cowden, in the Spring Grove style.

The drawing room ($22\frac{1}{2} \times 17\frac{1}{2}$ ft.) and the dining room ($22\frac{1}{2} \times 17$ ft.) and the rooms above had been built on by Henry Woodgate; the old part of the house consisted of the library ($23\frac{1}{2} \times 16\frac{1}{2}$ ft.), the hall (33×16 ft.), two other rooms, and the various offices, above which were the bedrooms. Decimus Burton heightened the roof of the old part so as to admit three attics, threw out a bay window from the drawing room, and a very beautiful porch, erected new chimney stacks and executed numerous smaller improvements, such as the introduction of finials. The glass door in the porch was filled with stained glass, in which the Woodgate arms and some of their alliances were beautifully painted. This glass is now at 9, the Lawn, St. Leonards.

The Revd. Thomas Streatfeild was descended from the Streatfeilds of Chidingstone (see pedigree). His first wife was a Miss Champion, a lady of very large fortune, by whom he had several children. Mr. Streatfeild for many years took duty at Tatsfield in Surrey, and was Chaplain to the Duke of Kent, the father of the late Queen Victoria. He was the author of several miscellaneous pieces, but was chiefly remarkable for his great antiquarian knowledge. He laboured incessantly to bring out a revised history of Kent, founded on Hasted, but only one volume has been published, on the *Hundred of Blackheath*. There are fifty two large volumes of his Manuscript in the British Museum, for the most part folio, and of priceless value. There are several volumes of sketches and views, many of them of his own drawing, with which he intended to embellish his work. Without an intimate acquaintance with this collection, it is safe to say that no author can aspire to a complete history of Kent. He had several artists in his constant employ, on whom he expended nearly £3,000; the armorial drawings were made on wood blocks by himself.

This truly valuable man had several children by his second wife, all of whom, with Clare Woodgate, and the children of the first marriage, were brought up together at Charts Edge.

The only early letter of Mrs. Streatfeild that we possess was written in 1827, on the death of Rose Woodgate, to Miss Humphry. It is sealed with the arms of Streatfeild impaling Harvey and Woodgate quarterly.

My dear Fanny,

“Charts Edge, Jan: 4th, 1827.

I have been prepared for the melancholy contents of your letter for some time, as I understood Mr. Morris considered poor Aunt Rose's state hopeless. I certainly should not have gone to the New Year's Ball had I known of her decease, but as I met several branches of the Family, I concluded she lived till it was too late for us to hear at this distance, as I am sure I would be the last person to shew disrespect to any one who bore the name of Woodgate. I am sorry to hear that your Mother is poorly and the death of her sister will be a severe shock to her. Mr. Streatfeild unites in kind regards to yourself, and believe me,

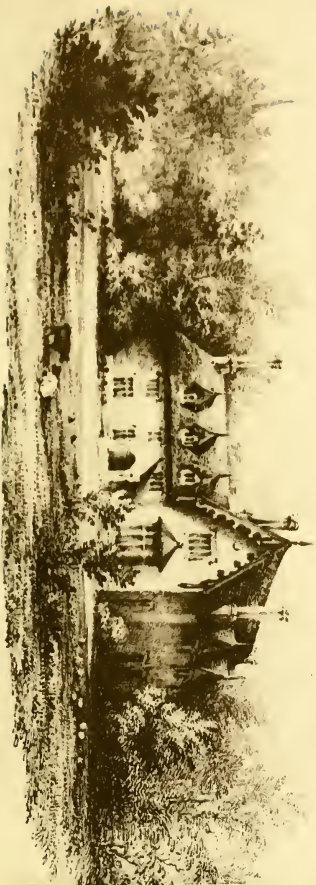
Yours very truly

Clare Streatfeild.”

Clare Woodgate married in 1837 her cousin Francis Woodgate of the War Office, fourth son of the W. F. Woodgate of Summerhill. A brief account of them and of the subsequent history of Spring Grove appears on p. 385.

Frances, the other daughter, married firstly Musgrave Brisco of Coghurst, and afterwards Charles Hay Frewen of Cold Overton. She died without issue, so that the only representatives of the Spring Grove branch are the descendants of Clare Woodgate. A separate chapter has been devoted to Mrs. Brisco.

Mrs. Streatfeild died in 1886, aged 92. There is a tablet to her and her husband in Chidingstone Church:—“Thomas Streatfeild clericus obiit Maii XVI. MDCCCXXXVIII. aetat LXXI. Et Clare uxor ejus obiit Maii XVI. MCCCCLXXXVI. aetat. XCII.”



SPRING GROVE, Penbury, the Seat of Henry Woodgate, Esq.

CHAPTER XV.

WESTS OF POSTERN PARK, TONBRIDGE.

After the death of William Woodgate of Summerhill in 1809, Maria his eldest daughter repaired to Stonewall to keep house for her brother, John Woodgate, a bachelor. It was not long however before she married John Hartrup West of Postern Park, Tonbridge (a), but had no issue. By a former wife, Mr. West had had one son, James Eldridge West, who had married Alicia Ashburnham, daughter of Sir William Ashburnham of Broomham and Alicia Woodgate, and was then living at the Postern (b). In order to pursue a consecutive narrative, it is necessary to turn

(a) From an entry in an old Family Bible, it appears that the Miss Hartrup, at the head of the pedigree, was the daughter and coheirress of a lady whose surname was Fisher and whose first husband was named Grimalston. There were two children: Francis Grimalston, b. 1705, d. 1706; and Elizabeth, b. 1706. She married a gentleman of the name of Hartrup, and had issue

1. Ann, b. 12th August, 1710; Mrs. Sheepy and Mrs. Bedford, Sponsors.
2. Katherine, b. 5th February, 1712, d. 20th May, 1712.
3. Mary, b. 31st January, d. 24th June, 1713.
4. Richard, b. 17th February, 1714; d. 11th September, 1715.
5. Robert, b. 17th February, 1715; d. 1715.
6. Sarah b. 15th July, 1716. Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Gunton, Mrs. Gull and Katherine Hayward, Sponsors.
7. Mary, b. 13th September, 1719. Mrs. John Hayward and Madam Jeyes Sponsors.

The Wests appear to have been descended from Francis West of London, son of Anthony West of Aughton, Yorks. who married Alice daughter of Blase Carrell of London, Merchant. The arms are:—"Argent, a fess indented between three leopards heads sable" With these should be quartered *Hartrup* (a chevron between three wolves), and *Eldridge* (or, a bend regulee sable, in base a martlet gules beaked of the second).

(b) Mr. West m. Miss Hartrup, coheirress (b. 1710—19), and had issue

1. *John Hartrup*.
2. Miss West, m. at Deptford in April, 1737, — Pomroy, Clerk of the Chequer.

John Hartrup West of Deptford (whose widow married 2ndly William Slade of Bromley Hill, High Sheriff of Kent in 1791) had issue

John Hartrup West of Postern Park, Tonbridge, J.P. and D.L., a posthumous child, m. 1st Amy, only daughter and heiress of James Eldridge of Postern Park, by Mary his wife, daughter of Thomas Whittaker of Trosley Court, High Sheriff of Kent in 1758. She died 2nd December, 1797, leaving one child,

1. James Eldridge West.

Mr. West married 2ndly Maria, daughter of William WOODGATE of Summerhill, J.P. and D.L., b. 22nd June, 1775, d. 20th April, 1851, s.p. Mr. West was succeeded by his only son,

James Eldridge West of Postern Park and of Tonbridge Castle, J.P. and D.L., b. 20th June, 1783, m. 3rd December, 1804, Alicia, only daughter of Sir William Ashburnham, Bart., of Broomham, and Alicia his wife (daughter of the Rev. Francis Woodgate of Mountfield) b. 10th January, 1777, d. 22nd December, 1859, and had issue

1. *James John*, of whom presently.
2. William Ashburnham West of the Manor House, Tonbridge, J.P. and D.L., b. 17th January, 1807, d. 1881 unm.

3. Alicia Amy, d. unm.
4. Frances Ashburnham, d. March 1846, unm.

5. John Eldridge (Capt.), b. 1813, m. 16th May, 1845, Mary Ellen daughter and coheirress of the Rev. Denny Ashburnham, Vicar of Ditchling (younger son of Sir William Ashburnham) and had issue, Alicia, Denny, and five other children.

6. Frederick George, b. 1819, had issue, one son and one daughter.
7. Rosetta Maria, m. 10th May, 1854, the Rev. James Hillier, D.D., of Sandwich.

The Rev. *James John West*, M.A., scholar of Jesus Coll., Oxford, and Rector of Winchelsea, Sussex, b. 1810, m. 1st Margaret, daughter of Capt. Molyneux of Ludlow, Salop, and niece of Sir Capel Molyneux of Castle Ditton, Bart., and had issue

1. a daughter, b. 26th December, 1830, d. infant.
- He m. 2ndly Charlotte, daughter of Capt. Blair of Walton Grove, Surrey, and niece of Sir Robert Blair of Bath, and had issue

2. James John.
3. Charlotte Alicia.
3. Blair Henry, B.A., Magd. Coll., Oxford, 1860.
4. Rosa Charlotte.

back a few years in order to take up the thread at the beginning of the West letters in 1805.

“ Postern Park, April 30th, 1805.

My dear Fanny [Humphry],

Your kind letter afforded me the sincerest pleasure for which I must request you to accept my thanks. I am very happy to find you had an agreeable Dance, but must own I was *rather disappointed* at your not sending me a list of your Partners, as then I shou'd have been able to have given a pretty *shrewd guess* who was your favourite. We expect my brother William here to-day, whose society you may be certain will render me very happy. I met Frank Woodgate the other day at my Aunts' [Rose and Sarah Woodgate, of Tonbridge], and likewise Mr. & Mrs. P. Nouaille & little Peter. I cannot help sympathizing with poor Mr. & Mrs. Taylor on the prospect of their daughter's [Mrs. Ilbert] going to Canada, as the very idea of parting with her must almost break their hearts. I hope now my dear Fanny you will take warning & never bestow either your *hand or heart* on a Military Man. We shall remember to drink John's and his *Godmother's* health in bumpers to-day. I understand my uncle has consulted Dr. Smith & that he thinks himself the better for his prescriptions. I saw my Aunt Fanny [Ashburnham, of Tunbridge Wells] the other morning; she seemed quite vex'd it was not in her power to purchase us the flower stands at Mr. Cumberland's auction, as they sold much better than was expected. If my brother brings his Gig, I am sure he will pay his friends at Seal a visit. . . .”

Mr. Richard Cumberland was the well known dramatist living at Tunbridge Wells.

“ Postern Park, May 5th, 1805.

My dear Fanny,

Be assured you would have heard from me long e'er this had I not seen your friend Miss Walter. . . . Poor Mrs. W. Woodgate [of Tonbridge Castle] has had a most severe struggle for her life; I called on her yesterday, & tho' she is wonderfully recover'd she still looks in my opinion very ill. Rosa is a nice little Girl. I am happy to inform you my Aunts are perfectly well. . . . I imagine we shall soon have Mrs. Nouaille in this Neighbourhood, as I understand the Sclaters are soon to quit their House, the *charming Eliza* being to be married very shortly.”

That month the Wests and Ellen Woodgate spent some time in London, viewing the sights of the Metropolis and witnessing the performance in the play *Douglas* of the young Roscius, with whom they were delighted. “ I did not call or send to your Brother William,” she writes to Miss Humphry on 3rd June, “ as I was fearful it might not have been agreeable to him, but must own I was very much in hopes chance would have thrown him in my way, but I was so unfortunate as not even once to meet him. . . . We spent the day yesterday with your Aunts [Rose and Sarah Woodgate] & they desired to be most kindly remembered to your circle. I think they told me that they met Elizabeth and John at the Review in Knole Park while we were in London. . . . I saw my Brother Denny several times when I was in Town (as he was staying with my Father); he wishes us much to visit Derbyshire, but I fear I shall not be able to undertake so long a journey; but as Broomham is quite within *my distance*, we purpose going there in the course of the Summer, which you may be sure I anticipate the greatest pleasure from, as it is my favourite abode. I am extremely concerned to find Mr. Ilbert still continues in so precarious a state, from what I hear there is very little chance of his recovery; if so, what a melancholy prospect has poor Mrs. Ilbert. We met Miss Julia Hardinge going to Town the day we returned. . . .”

She writes again on 29th September :—

“ You cannot imagine how delighted I was with our Brighton Excursion & sincerely hope Mrs. Humphry & your sisters will be equally so with theirs [at Sandgate]. I have no doubt they will return with renew'd health & spirits.

I am extremely happy to find Mrs. Nouaille goes on so well with her Nursery. My Aunts & the Mr. Wests are gone to Church, and I thought I could not employ the hours more agreeably during their absence than addressing your Ladyship. My Brothers William & Denny have spent a few days with us lately. To-morrow I purpose taking a Drive to Riverhill. . . . I met the family at Riverhill here about ten days ago, when Ellen presented me with the sweetest Pincushion I ever saw, of her own performance, which you may be sure I shall keep as long as I live for the Giver's sake. I daresay Julia and you begin to be rather *impatient* for the return of our friends from Sandgate, as I imagine by this time you begin to be almost tired of *housekeeping*, tho' I know you always excelled in that capacity. . . . My Aunt Sarah received a very long letter from Mr. Ozias Humphry the other day."

The visit to Brighton was undertaken by Mr. and Mrs. James West, Rose and Sarah Woodgate, and lasted about a fortnight. The Humphrys had accompanied Mrs. Pratt to Sandgate for some weeks. Soon after this time, James John West, the eldest son, was born. Mrs. James West writes in 1806:—

"Postern Park, March 10th, 1806.

My dear Fanny,

You cannot imagine how much I was disappointed at not meeting you at the Ball, & to own the truth my only motive in going was the pleasing idea of meeting you, but the *fates* had decreed it otherwise. I daresay you would like to hear *every particular* of our *Grand Assembly*. I shall therefore take great pleasure in sending you a *full & circumstantial account*. In the first place, I must tell you how your *sweet Willy* deplored your absence. I assure you he told me as soon as I entered the Room that (to his sorrow) Mr. and Mrs. P. Nouaille had brought Mrs. Whitehead, whom he considered as a *very poor substitute* for Miss Humphry. To own the truth, our Ball was very thinly attended, which you will readily believe when I tell you there were not forty persons present, & out of that number we cou'd scarcely muster ten Couples of Dancers. There was a greater dearth of *Belles* than *Beaus*, which you know is rather unusual at Tonbridge, but this being the case you will not be surprized at Mr. Wm. Burton *condescending* to ask a *married Lady* to Dance, but I was under the disagreeable necessity of refusing him that *Honor*. Now I have no doubt but the reason he *selected* me was in order to gain some information respecting your Ladyship, so you see it you had taken my advice & prolong'd your stay a little, I shou'd have been able to have put my *plans in execution*, & who knows but before the expiration of 1806 I might have had the satisfaction of seeing you *settled* at that charming Mansion on the Hill [Mabledon]? So you see, my dear Fanny, what happiness you have lost by thus hastily absenting yourself.

I suppose you have heard that Mrs. Henry Woodgate [of Spring Grove] is not able to nurse her little Girl, tho' in other respects she is extremely well, & I understand purposed coming downstairs yesterday. I have not been to see her, but I shall very soon. Mr. Charles Hardinge did not attend our Ball, neither did Mr. John Thompson favour us with his company. I was quite shocked and concerned to hear of the death of poor Mrs. Claridge; what a dreadful loss she will be to her family. Had it not been for my Aunts' kind care and attention to me, I should have spoke from experience that a Mother's is a most irreparable loss, but they certainly have amply supplied a mother's place to me. I have not heard from any of my Sussex friends since they left us, but I believe I shall take compassion on Mrs. Ashburnham in her *solitude* & send her an epistle. I am told Mrs. Whitaker purposes returning to Pembury, so I suppose we shall have all the gentlemen in this Neighbourhood kneeling to Miss W. as I have no doubt they will now discover she has *ten thousand charms*. When we got to the Vine the Morn'g we left you, we saw all the Holmesdales, including the Duchess & Lord Whitworth; I assure you they made quite a military appearance. I imagine you have heard that Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille intend being our Neighbours very shortly; they have taken Mr. Sclater's House for a short time, which I am quite surprized at."

Mr. Sclater's house—Mrs. Sclater was a Miss Hooker of Tonbridge Castle—was Elmden. Mrs. Claridge was the daughter of Thomas Swayne of Fish-hall, Hadlow, and grand-daughter of George Swayne of Fish-hall, who married Rose the daughter of John Woodgate of Summerhill. Mr. Claridge was for many years Clerk of the Peace. Mrs. Whitaker's husband had been for fifty years Vicar of Pembury, and died in 1803.

My dear Fanny,

“ Postern Park, July 14th, 1806.

I hope you have not forgot your promise (when we last parted) of accompanying us to Brighton; we rather think of going in the course of a fortnight, but you may depend on hearing from me again as soon as the day is fix'd. I am happy to say my Aunts purpose joining our party, which you may be sure will render it much more agreeable to your Humble Servant. We returned from Goudhurst last Saturday where we have been spending some days, indeed the kind attentions of Mr. & Mrs. Mathews to myself & *Babe* made me extremely sorry to leave them. I quite long for you to see my little darling, I think you will scarcely recognise him. Mr. Burton intends giving a Dance on Friday next: he sent the Mr. Wests & myself a Card, but as the Ladies of the Family have never *condescended* to visit me, I have declined the Invitation, but the Gentlemen mean to attend. I am particularly happy to hear that Ellen Woodgate has regained her health, as I assure you I have been very anxious on her account. I have promised to spend a day at Riverhill for some time, I must therefore make a point of seeing them before I go to Brighton. I met your *favorite* Mr. Henry Walter last night. I do think him a remarkably pleasant and gentlemanly young Man.”

She writes again the next fortnight:—

“ It is our intention to take a drive to Seven Oaks on Thursday next & we have promised to Dine at River Hill as we return. Now I am extremely sorry it will not be in our power to reach your *Habitation* (on account of the Hooping Cough) but if you cou'd contrive & meet us at Seven Oaks we shall be most truly happy in taking you back with us, as we purpose going to Brighton the end of next week. We have not yet fixed the day as it must depend on the Assizes at Lewes, for I assure you that the place is quite a scene of confusion during the Assizes, so much so that it renders it extremely unpleasant to pass thro'. If you prefer coming down with Mrs. P. Nouaille, I beg you will not scruple to say so, as I wou'd wish you to accept whichever conveyance you like best, only the sooner you come to me the more you will oblige your *Humble Servant*.

I have been staying with my Aunts for the last ten days & only returned yesterday. While I was with them I had the good fortune to see my Brother Denny in his way into Sussex, & likewise the family at River Hill as they went to the Wells. It gave me great pleasure to see my friend Ellen looking so remarkably well, indeed if I might judge from her looks her Health appears quite re-established.”

In January she writes that her Aunt Fanny was staying at the Postern; she mentions having heard from Ellen Woodgate, describing the gaieties at Sevenoaks and the ball at Lady Amherst's, “ a most splendid affair.” In that month William Ashburnham West, the second son, was born.

In 1808, James West, wishing to have a house of his own, purchased one at the upper end of the Town, of Mrs. Hankins. Thomas Hankins, a surgeon (the third son of Mr. Hankins of Tonbridge, Surgeon) died at Tonbridge on 11th November, 1808. The house was called Dryhill Lodge, and we believe it to be identical with that now known as Manor House, a rambling old fashioned red brick place now a good deal altered and used as one of the School houses; as such, it was kept for some years by Mr. H. Pott. Rose Woodgate writes, “ He could not meet with anything more eligible; it is near his Father and us, which has induced him to buy it.” The first letter from their new house is as follows:—

My dear Fanny,

“ Dry Hill, April 5th, 1808.

As my Aunt's servant purposes going to Seal to-morrow, I shall avail myself

of the opportunity of sending you a few lines by him. . . . I flatter myself you will hardly recognise my *sweet William*, he is so grown since you saw him; and as for James, I assure you he is a most *saucy fellow*. We begin now to be very comfortably settled, tho' our *State Bed* is not yet completed. With the pleasing hope of seeing you soon, I shall conclude with the united kind regards of Mr. Jas & myself to your circle, & allow me to remain, yours most affectionately,

Alicia West."

The next letter contains a pressing invitation to Miss Humphry to attend the ball on March 2nd, and pass two or three nights at Dry Hill, which would be her first visit since they "commenced house-keepers." She adds:—

"I feel certain that it will give you great pleasure to hear that Mr. Jas. this morning received a long letter from your friend Captain Wood, who appears in high health and spirits, & requests to be remembered to all his friends in this neighbourhood; no doubt he *includes you*. Pray how does the wedding [Stephen Woodgate to Miss Hardinge] go on at the Grove? I imagine it will shortly take place. My Aunts are quite well; what a beautiful shirt you have worked for my Aunt Rose, I assure you she is quite delighted with it. I am happy to say my Boys are well but very *saucy*, particularly my eldest darling. My Brother has been staying some days with us lately."

A Captain Wood married in 1801 Lady Caroline Stewart, sister of Lord Castle-reagh. Before the next letter was written, Maria Woodgate had married Mr. West, senior, of the Postern. It is dated 15th August, 1816, and is addressed to Mary Anne Humphry.

" . . . I am rejoiced to find that Riding on Horseback agrees with you, & have no doubt but you will like the Poney, as it is a great favorite with our young Folks, but so far from your depriving them of an amusement they feel highly flattered by your condescending to Ride it, & I am confident nothing will give them greater satisfaction than to hear it has re-established your health. My Cara-Sposa is now in Town, but I expect him to return this Evening. My Aunt Rose has kindly offered to convey this Epistle; I think the Seal air will be of service to her. I regret the loss of the Thomas' extremely, more particularly on her account, as they were such very good Neighbours, indeed I think this place appears quite deserted.

Pray tell Fanny that my dear little Rosetta will be grown out of her knowledge unless she visits Tonbridge soon. Our Boys like School exceedingly & you will be surprised when I tell you that they even regret a half Holyday. They now learn to Dance, & I have no doubt they will improve very much. My Aunt Fanny spent the morning with me the other day on her way to Mrs. Money Penny's, where she purposed spending some days. She told me the Wells was very little frequented this Season. I think Mrs. Charles Hardinge [formerly Miss Callender] a very pretty agreeable Woman, indeed I consider Mr. H. a most fortunate Man."

The following letter was written by the eldest son, at a time when he was not quite twelve years old, in a round unformed hand.

"Tonbridge, June 1st, 1817.

My dear Miss Julia [Humphry],

I certainly shall *blush* when I see you in not having written to you before, but I have been so much engaged lately that I could not allow myself time. However I have a small *budget* of News to communicate to you. I shall therefore begin with saying Uncle William is, we hear, arrived at the Wells; how I do sincerely wish you were here, for reasons you very well know. Mr. Benson has been staying with us lately; he preached on Sunday afternoon and on Whitsun Monday and gave us a most admirable sermon on both occasions. His text on Monday was "Let Brotherly love continue." I admired him so much as a Preacher that I have made up my mind to enter the Church. If you should happen to honour me with your presence when I first ascend the Pulpit, I entreat you my dear Julia

not to be extreme to mark what I say amiss. Mr. Benson left us on Wednesday. Miss Marianne went to Mr. S. Woodgate's Christing with Grandpapa on Friday. Our Holidays commence on Thursday the 19th of June. It is with unbounded pleasure I can inform you that my Aunt Rose & the amiable Miss Maryanne are quite well, as our Circle all are. Mama took it particularly kind in Miss Fanny to pay her a visit, as her stay at Tonbridge was so short. God bless you, my dear Miss Julia, & may you ever be happy is the sincere wish of your Affectionate tho saucy cousin

James John West."

There is only one letter of Mr. West senior (except one on business); it seems that Miss Humphry was the object of particular attention from some gentleman who had to be rebuked by Mr. West.

"My dear Miss Fanny,

After I left you I call'd upon your admiring but now disconsolate swain. Our interview was very short, he of course all expectation. I told him I had had a conversation with you, & that under every consideration of the matter he must positively discontinue his visits. He promised most faithfully to obey your commands, but in my life I never saw a more perfect Picture of the Knight of the Woeful countenance. He thank'd me for the trouble I had taken. I made my Bow and departed, so that I sincerely hope you may rest in perfect safety for the time to come. Believe me, very truly yours,
Postern, Thursday Eveng. J. H. West.

Janry 22, 1818."

About 1826, James John West writes from Hastings to communicate some important intelligence. He fancies he has met the future "Mrs. James West junr," as he calls her, and exhausts the realms of fancy in describing her perfections. Mrs. Allnutt (formerly Frances Woodgate of Summerhill, who we learn was wearing the handsomest head-dress in Hastings), pronounced him with her usual force and brevity "quite an enthusiastic Jackass;" and Mrs. West senior (Maria Woodgate, on another though similar occasion, says "I have seen many 'stricken deer' in my time, but really James out-Herod's Herod. A more complete *Noodle* I never saw; he is too ridiculous to laugh at." From several circumstances, it would seem that his words and his whole behaviour were very extravagant.

Mrs. West senior was devoted to Hastings, and spent a great deal of her time there. The first remaining letter of hers in which she signs herself West is dated 1823.

"My dear Julia,

On the receipt of your letter this morning I visited my friend Smith with the intention of engaging his lodgings, but upon enquiry I found he had proved a *gay Deceiver*, for I understood from him on Saturday that you was to have had a kitchen entirely to yourselves, whereas it now appears that himself, wife and servant (who reside in the house) make use of it jointly with the lodgers, which I think you would have found extremely inconvenient on many accounts, particularly in the mixture of servants; besides which there were other objections which I will explain when we meet. Being foiled in this attempt to secure a House, we went over many more; but altho' the rooms were tolerably airy, yet the Staircases were so dark & steep that I am sure my Aunt would not have thought either of them desirable. Thus circumstanced, we deem'd it advisable to engage Mrs. Cromp's in George Street, the House the Dodds had, at three guineas the week for the month, from Thursday the seventh of August. There are four Bed rooms to these lodgings; the fourth I think you will find convenient if your Brother visits you during your stay at Hastings. The Kitchen, which is a very good one and looking to the street, you will have entirely to yourselves. The landlady (a very nice old woman, afflicted with an asthma) is the only person in the House, & she occupies a room quite at the back part, & I daresay will not annoy you in any respect. Rely upon it, we will take every care

of your trunk when it arrives. Now my dear Julia we shall feel particularly obliged if you will take a mutton chop with us the day you come down. We will dine at any time, and if you let us know your mode of conveyance and what time you will be here, Mr. West will meet you in the town and conduct you to our villa, where we shall be happy to entertain you all till your own apartments are arranged for your reception. After dinner Ann Waite (who is the Lady of the Bedchamber) can go over with your Damsels and put everything in order; while my Aunt, Maryanne & yourself are *unfatiguing* yourselves at our *Bow window*, while I order you in any coals or Beer upon your arrival. I only hope you will not be scrupulous, but command my services in any thing that you may require. William West is just come from Broomham & says a great alteration has taken place in Sir Wm. during the night; he has entirely lost his speech & his sons think it unlikely that he will survive the week. I mention this that you may bring a little mourning. Sir John Sidney is here, *flirting* with Miss Scott. I am happy in seeing Henry Woodgate looking so well; he is staying here with the Normans. Miss Gunning came through wind & water on Saturday; she was disappointed in an inside place, so mounted the Box, wrapped in the Coachman's great coat, & in this elevated situation made her entrée into Hastings. With kindest love to all at Seal, believe me, most affly yours

Monday morning.

M. West."

Another letter, more brief, is addressed to Miss Humphry about 1825; Miss Humphry was staying with Rose Woodgate at Tonbridge.

"My dear Fanny,

Had the Evening *smiled*, it was my intention to have called on you, and solicited the pleasure of your company to join the Postern party to the concert to-morrow Evening. A ticket, and a seat in the carriage, are much at your service, and the acceptance will infinitely oblige both Mr. West & myself. Should you prove propitious to our wishes, the party will be with you by seven o'clock. I beg you will present my kind love to my Aunt Rose and at the same time believe me, yours affly, Postern, Tuesday Even.

M. West."

James John, William, and Frederick were all brought up at Tonbridge School. James, who was there from 1818 to 1825, and was Head Boy in 1824, was elected by Dr. Knox (who married Frances Woodgate) Judd Exhibitioner in December, 1824, and was entered for Jesus College, Cambridge, of which he was a Scholar. His father made him a good allowance and in addition afforded him a private tutor; we believe it was the general custom for undergraduates to find their own tutors out of their allowances. He had been coached by Mr. John Thompson of Lullingstone, who accompanied him to Cambridge for the first time in October, 1825. Miss Humphry writes, "He gives a favorable report of our friend James & left him very comfortably settled at Jesus Colledge; they travelled with Mr. Warren (a brother of the Judge) & his son, who was about to commence his academical studies at Cambridge. His Father described him as an excellent young man & of a very studious turn; between him and James a friendship commenced & Mr. Thompson said he left them pursuing their studies together. His Tutor also we are told is a most respectable man. These are satisfactory particulars I thought."

James derived the greatest enjoyment from his Cambridge life, upon which he entered with peculiar zest. He took his degree in 1829, was ordained in 1831, and took his M.A. degree in 1832. Though sorry to leave Tonbridge, where he never once had had a misunderstanding with his kind friend and master Dr. Knox, he was delighted to attain to Cambridge, where he intended, he says, to prosecute his studies with the utmost zeal in order that he might do credit to Dr. Knox.

Meanwhile, in 1825, Sir William Ashburnham married his cousin Julia Humphry, and Mrs. James West's eldest daughter Alicia was one of the bridesmaids. After the happy pair left Seal and Tonbridge, they proceeded to Broomham where they

received an enthusiastic greeting (see p. 88). Mrs. West writes on the occasion, on 12th July :—

“ Allow me once more to offer the very sincere congratulations of Mr. James West, myself & circle on your arrival at the *old* mansion. That my dear Brother & his fair Bride may experience every happiness there is my fervent wish. I have no doubt but you were greeted with every mark of respect by the numerous assemblage which I heard was to be collected on the joyful occasion near the Park at Broomham. . . . Your friend Miss Harvey & Mr. & Mrs. Moneypenny called here yesterday to offer their Congratulations. Mr. James West started for London this morning. Mr. & Mrs. Browne made their appearance at Church on Sunday last ; I have not yet paid them a visit, but intend calling on them to-morrow provided Alicia is better, as you know she *delights* in visiting a Bride. As Mr. & Mrs. Francis Woodgate are just announced you must excuse my concluding.
 . . . ”

In September James paid the Ashburnham's a visit, and attended one of their big dinner parties. He rode down to Guestling, with his pointer following ; and expressed himself as anxious for some shooting. We learn that his friendship with Mr. Warren, whose father was a clergyman in West Sussex, ripened into intimacy. It seems that William West followed his brother to Cambridge. Alicia and Fanny West also stayed at Broomham for several weeks, and were delighted with their visit.

Mrs. James West writes on 26th June, 1826 :—

“ I understand Skinners Day [Founder's Day at Tonbridge School] passed off very well. There were four singers from the Chapel Royal to entertain the Gentlemen after Dinner ; they likewise sang at Church in the afternoon. There were only three Boys who had Garlands, and Alicia desires me to tell you that she was *fortunate* enough to obtain one of them, Mary Hardinge another and Maria Allnutt the third. The young Gentlemen who had Garlands were presented also with some very handsome Books.”

These garlands were given as an honorary reward to boys who had achieved distinction, and were presented by them to one of the ladies present ; they were also the recipients of a more valuable recognition of merit, such as books. In September, 1826, the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria visited Summerhill and Tonbridge. “ The Duchess of Kent,” says Alicia West, “ is staying at Tonbridge Wells and has visited Summerhill and the Castle, and we understand she intends visiting Tonbridge Church. She went to Penshurst Church the Sunday before last. Her little Girl is with her, and I hear she is a sweet child.”

On 28th November, 1826, Mrs. James West writes to her brother that her Aunt Rose had been taken seriously ill. She goes on to say :—

“ Alicia requests me to acquaint you that Mr. Kerby patronized the Theatre here last evening, & that Mr. James, William, herself & John attended. I believe it was the best House they have had during their stay here. Pray tell Julia that Alicia has been much gratified by the society of the Miss Pontons, whom I consider remarkably nice Girls ; indeed I shou'd like exceedingly to have them for Neighbours. I was quite grieved to hear so unfavourable an account of my friend Mrs. Denne, & hope soon to hear she is better. . . . ”

Alicia writes of the Miss Pontons :—

“ I can assure you I miss the society of the Miss Pontons very much, they are very accomplished Girls ; they both play delightfully on the Piano, and the eldest likewise on the harp. Mama was extremely sorry to hear of the death of Miss Whitear, and more particularly as it was caused in so shocking a manner. Mr. Harvey [probably William Thomas Harvey of Hilden House] had a Robbery committed at his house the other night ; he estimates the loss at eight pounds.

Tonbridge continues as gay as ever, we have At Home's here three times a week, and in addition we have Theatricals here ; I think we shall soon *vie* with Hastings. One day last week we saw Uncle George [Ashburnham] go by on the Coach, he kissed his hand to us as he passed."

On 1st January, 1827, Rose Woodgate, whose health for two months previously had experienced a steady decline, died at an advanced age. She was one who, in the words of Mrs. James West, had "from my very earliest infancy supplied the place of the tenderest of Mothers," and she expressed the opinion that she would take long to recover from her loss. She viewed the approaching event with the most poignant feelings of grief, and her excitable nature was overpowered by the realization of her fears. She writes to Lady Ashburnham.

"I am sure my dear Brother & yourself will sympathize with me in the very great affliction I have experienced in the loss of the best of Aunts. It afforded me the most soothing consolation to find in my dear Relative's last moments she was free from pain. Her latter hours were marked by that Piety, patience and resignation that had been so conspicuous during her life ; her loss by me will *long, long be felt.*"

And again :—

"This morning's post brought me a letter from my dear Denny in which he sympathizes with me in the most feeling & affectionate manner on the loss of my dear, revered, and (by me ever to be) lamented Aunt, who has from my very Infancy ever evinced towards me the fondness of a Mother ; but now, my dear Fanny,

The chain is broke that bound us then,

Where shall I find her like again ?

Never in this world, I am well convinced ; but I shall ever cherish in my mind the virtues of one whose loss I shall as long as life remains *never cease* to deplore."

It is not surprising that Mrs. James West should thus lament her Aunt, to whom she had been accustomed to pay a daily visit, and to whom she was ever a daughter rather than a niece. Mrs. James West, at the death of Rose Woodgate, came in for £2,200 in cash and £3,000 in the Three Per Cents, besides which £100 legacies were left to each of her children. The bulk of her fortune however passed to the Humphrys.

In February died Mrs. Jones, whose funeral passed through Tonbridge. Mr. William Hussey who formerly resided at Tonbridge settled at Hawkhurst ; his son attended Tonbridge School.

The following undated letter of Mrs. John Hartrup West must be ascribed to this period :—

"My dear Lady Ashburnham,

When I last had the pleasure of seeing Sir William at the Postern, he expressed a wish to know the name of the beautiful scarlet Plant we all so much admired at Redleaf in the Autumn. Mr. Wells informs me it is called the *Salvia*, and that it may be had *now* at any Nurseryman's, altho' a few years ago it was considered a most rare and scarce production. It is of a hardy race and by no means difficult to raise. Every success attend you in your endeavour to rear so ornamental and elegant a plant, for I think it was one of the prettiest things I ever saw. We are delighted to hear that Alicia is to pay you a visit ; she has been a most excellent neighbour lately & I have no doubt you will find her, as we have, a most sweet tempered amiable girl. Her society is so confined at home that I think a few weeks spent at Broomham will be of the most essential service to her, & conduce greatly to her improvement and happiness. I called on our friends at Seal about ten days ago and was happy to find them all so much better than I had anticipated after their severe afflictions. We expect James & William Home next week ; the former gives a very good account of himself and says he has quite recovered his *good looks*. William has been poorly but is better ; I think it is quite an exertion for him to absent

himself so long from Home. I am sorry to say Mr. West cannot get rid of his cough, which at times is still very troublesome. Sincerely hoping Sir Wm. is quite recovered from his late Indisposition & that you were not a sufferer from your excellent nursing, believe me, my dear Lady Ashburnham, yours most affly,

M. West.

We all unite in kindest regards to Sir. Wm. Fanny [Woodgate] is quite recovered from the Hooping cough and looks forward to spending another winter at Hastings with all imaginable glee. To be sure Tonbridge has been unusually dull and void of interest.
Thursday morning."

Fanny Woodgate, afterwards Mrs. Musgrave Brisco, was the daughter of Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove. Both he and Mrs. Woodgate were dead, and Fanny was brought up at the Postern by her aunt. Her sister Clare Woodgate, afterwards Mrs. Francis Woodgate of Falconhurst, was living with the Streatfields at Charts Edge. Some of Mrs. West's letters are given under the heading of "The Brisco's" (Chapter XVI).

In a letter written in April, 1829, Mrs. James West mentions the death of Mr. Pelham. Lady Hardinge informed her that his will had not yet been found, nor had the family mourned for him. She had hoped that her brother, William, might have come in for the Shropshire estate.

The story of James John West's engagement may be collected from the various letters extant. He was staying at Hastings with Mr. and Mrs. West of the Postern at the time. Lady Ashburnham writes on 13th January, 1828:—

"You will be concerned to hear that James West has given his Friends at Hastings considerable uneasiness, & I am grieved to say has entangled himself (without the knowledge of any of his Family) in a matrimonial Engagement with Miss Molyneux, a tall young Lady who you may perhaps recollect attending the last Ball you went to with us at Hastings with Miss Curson. Mr. and Mrs. West are made extremely unhappy by this unfortunate occurrence, but I must particularly request that neither my Mother, Maryanne, or yourself will mention it to anyone at present, as I believe his Father & Mother have not yet been informed of it. It is a most rash action on James' part, Miss Molyneux having no fortune or expectation of any. Her father resides at Ludlow in Shropshire and has twelve children, *eleven daughters* and one son. This affair has cast a great damp on the enjoyment of the Hastings Party; but as they have neither of them any provision, I do not see how it can ever take place. Poor Mr. West is in *great* tribulation, & I feel much apprehension for the effect this intelligence may produce on Mrs. James West's health."

In April Sir William paid a short visit to Dry-hill. He says, "My sister had lately met her friend Mrs. Money Penny, who congratulated her on the intended union of her son James with Miss Molyneux, and spoke in the highest terms of the young Lady. As my sister seems perfectly to approve of the purposed connection, I have only to say that I hope all things will ultimately turn out for the best. My sister does not expect her son James at Tunbridge during the present vacation; she imagines that he will stay at Ludlow till it will be necessary for him to return to Cambridge."

James was nearly as pleased with the whole Molyneux family as he was with that member of it whom he favoured with his particular regard. Mr. Molyneux was an officer in the Army and brother of Sir Capel Molyneux, Bart. of Castle Ditton. In order to make some provision for James, his uncle Sir William Ashburnham secured him the curacy of Winchelsea. The living of Winchelsea was in his gift, but was already occupied; James however was curate in charge and lived at the Rectory. Mr. Mortimer was the Rector, but appears to have been non-resident. The stipend was assisted by the allowance James received from his Father; but

economy was necessary, and one of the first acts James performed was to sell his horse.

The wedding was fixed for the 27th August, 1829. Lady Ashburnham's present was a handsome set of china. Lady Teynham gave Miss Margaret Molyneux her wedding dress; and Lady William Somerset (who was the eldest daughter of Lieut. General Sir Thomas Molyneux, Bart.) made her a present, coupled with her advice to be very economical till better days should arrive.

On 28th November, Sir William Ashburnham writes:—

"My nephew James and his wife intend to set off from Winchelsea on Monday next upon a visit to their friends at Dry-hill, where, I doubt not, Mrs. James John West will be a very acceptable guest. Our new relation is very sensible, very shrewd, very discerning, and very agreeable. Mrs. Musgrave Brisco is much pleased with her. James is very anxious to introduce his wife to your circle at Seal, and will spend a morning with you during his stay in Kent, if possible. I am sorry that his grand-father will have left the Posterne before he can reach Tunbridge; but this was unavoidable on the part of my nephew, because Mr. Mortimer did not read in, and take possession of the Rectory, till Sunday last, and till this ceremony had been performed James could not, with any degree of propriety and respect to his new Rector, have left Winchelsea."

During his stay at Tonbridge he delivered an appropriate sermon on behalf of the Friendly Societies, who declared that they had never heard so fine a discourse. His powerful voice, complete self-possession, and undoubted ability contributed to render him a capital preacher. The happy pair, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. James West, Alicia, Rosetta, and Frederick, called at Seal, where Mrs. James John West's manner and appearance made a most favourable impression; indeed she was generally considered a lady of very superior parts, and in this opinion Mr. and Mrs. James West and the family most heartily concurred. Alicia was to have returned with them to Winchelsea, but stayed to take lessons in Oriental tinting from Mr. Cook, the original inventor of the art, who was residing in the neighbourhood of Tonbridge for a short time.

In June, 1830, the James John Wests were staying at Northiam, and on their return received a visit of several days from Mr. James West, who drove down his wife, Alicia, and Fanny in a phaeton. In December Mrs. James John West gave birth to a daughter, which did not long survive. Mrs. West never recovered; but, after lingering for some months in a feeble state, expired.

James John West married secondly Charlotte, daughter of Captain Blair of Walton Grove, Surrey, and niece of Sir Robert Blair of Bath. In 1833 they were staying at Dover, the guest of Mrs. Blair. Dover Castle, he writes to Sir William, reminds him of their ancestor Bertram Ashburnham, a Kentish Baron and Constable of Dover Castle in 1066; he was beheaded by William the Conqueror for his valiant defence against the Normans. So says tradition, and *Burke* follows; but Mr. J. H. Round in his latest work pours scorn on it. Certainly Bertram de Ashburnham is not a name one would expect to find borne by a Saxon General. James West says he saw Sir John Hamilton at St. Leonards, who was staying at 31, Marina, and was desirous of renewing his old acquaintance with Sir William. Sir John Hamilton, Bart., a general officer in the Army, married the daughter of Mr. George Paul Monck, a connection of Mrs. Musgrave Brisco and the Boyne Hamiltons. John James West eventually became Rector of Winchelsea, and purchased the advowson after Sir William's death. He died in 1872, having had by his second wife two sons and two daughters: James John, Blair Henry, Charlotte Alicia, and Rosa Charlotte West,

To return to the Wests of Dryhill. In September, 1832, Mrs. James West writes:—

"When the Skinners paid their annual visit to the school, Frederick obtained

a prize from having been the head of his class for some weeks previous to Skinners day ; I have also the satisfaction to add that he has since been raised to a higher class & is now the head of that. General Le Measurier has formed an Archery meeting to which Mr. J. West, my son John, Alicia, & Fanny belong, & enjoy the amusement very much. They meet every Wednesday for four hours ; it appears a delightful exercise & well calculated to form the person. I am sure you would like the Measuriers. John accompanied his Father to dinner at the General's last week. I received a long and sociable letter from Marianne Molyneux the other day ; she appears to prefer their present residence to that in Shropshire. They seem to approve of Capel's choice extremely."

John Hartrup West died on 1st January, 1836. Mrs. West seems to have spent the chief part of her time after this event at Hastings ; Mrs. Brisco desired her to live at Coghurst, but this offer was declined. Further particulars of her may be found in the next chapter.

In 1836, the year of his Father's death, Mr. James West purchased Tonbridge Castle, and there the family took up their residence. Mr. James West was a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for the county of Kent. He was possessed of considerable property in Tonbridge and the neighbourhood, on a portion of which he grew hops. After about ten years at Tonbridge Castle, they returned to Dry Hill, and Tonbridge Castle was let to Mr. Joyce. Mrs. James West's health in the latter end of her life was extremely feeble ; and towards its close she became childish. She died on 22nd December, 1859, from a stroke of paralysis.

Of the eldest son, James John, sufficient has been said. William Ashburnham West, the second son, continued a bachelor and lived at Tonbridge where he died in 1881. He was a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for the County.

John Eldridge West, the third son, a Captain in the army, was married in 1845 to his cousin Mary Ellen, daughter and coheirress of the Rev. Denny Ashburnham, Vicar of Ditchling and Rector of Catsfield, Sussex. The service was performed, at the lady's particular request, by the Rev. George Woodgate of Pembury. After the lapse of a year or two, Capt. West settled down at Hanover House, Tonbridge, and had seven children. About 1858 he unfortunately lost all his money in railway speculations, and in 1863 the family removed to Trafalgar Place, Swansea.

Frederick George West, the fourth son, farmed land near Tonbridge and was the author of several small volumes. His wife died in 1859, leaving him with two small children, a son and a daughter.

Of the daughters, Rosetta Maria married in 1854 the Revd. Dr. James Hillier of Sandwich ; Frances Ashburnham died unmarried in 1846 ; and Alicia Amy continued to live at Dry Hill after her mother's decease, where we believe she died unmarried.

Mrs. West senior, the widow of John Hartrup West of the Postern, after her husband's death, lived generally at Hastings, at her house in York Buildings, now converted into shops. We have been told, by one who knew her well, that she was always high spirited, and full of vivacity. She was fond of singing old songs, some of which have been contributed to the English Folk Song Society, "as having been sung in the family of an old Kentish Squire." She was fond of seeing her old friends, but latterly did not indulge much in general society. Her niece begged her to make her home at Coghurst, which she declined.

She died in 1751, and was buried in the vault of the Noualles at Sevenoaks. There is an inscription to her memory underneath that of the Nouailles, in the nave of Sevenoaks Parish Church.

"Also of Maria widow of John Hartrup West Esq. of the Postern, Tonbridge, third daughter of William Woodgate Esq. of Somerhill in the same parish, who died April 20th, 1851, aged 75 years."

CHAPTER XVI.

BRISCO OF COGHURST, HASTINGS.

Frances, the other daughter of Henry Woodgate of Spring Grove, was brought up, as has been mentioned, by her aunt Maria West at the Postern. She had her own governess, who taught her French, Italian, music, drawing, dancing, and lesser accomplishments, without the assistance of Masters; and for this the governess received £100 a year. This was paid for out of her allowance from Spring Grove. Her first letter was written on her return from Hastings with the Wests, who spent a good deal of their time there. Her cousin Jane Woodgate of Pembury had been of the party.

“ Postern, Sept. 28th, 1824.

My dear Miss Mary Anne [Humphry],

The coach conveyed us rapidly away from *dear Hastings*, and indeed much *too* rapidly for some of our party who cast many “ a longing ling’ring look behind,” but the rain which descended in torrents reconciled us rather more to our departure. We reached Tonbridge at half past twelve. We left poor little Jane at Fairthorne; there were evidently a *few tears* at parting, but Uncle Stephen was there ready to receive her. William Woodgate and his *Bride elect* are staying at South Park. We went over on Saturday to be *introduced*. Had we not heard she was beautiful, we should certainly have considered her a *very pretty* young woman, but her having been so much extolled has been rather disadvantageous to her. She is much taller than we expected to see her, I think she is about my height, exceedingly thin & pale; she has beautiful dark eyes and hair and a very pretty mouth and set of teeth. They are going to spend a short time at Greatness and at Pembury, and then we expect them here for a few days. I have no doubt we shall find her very agreeable; she appears exceedingly pleasing and good-tempered. You mentioned in your letter that you had been very gay and much engaged, but you did not tell me whether you had been often to *the Croft*, or if you had met *Musgrave* frequently, which I am surprized at, as I am sure this subject must be much more interesting to you than any other. Oh! with what pleasure should I see you and this hero settled at Mrs. Shakespeare’s Cottage! He certainly must be styled the “ Knight of the Woful countenance,” but I have no doubt he would make the *best of husbands*. We have had *two phenomena* in the shape of two invitations to Dances since our return, but having no Carriage Horse we were prevented from accepting them. One was to Mr. May’s and the other to Mr. Saint’s. I have been confined to the house by unfavourable weather and a bad cough for the last ten days, and I am sure it is many degrees colder here than at Hastings; a *North-wind* I might perhaps have endured with more patience, but wet weather has not many attractions. Aunt West heard from Aunt Nouaille the other day. She said that Peter had derived great benefit from Dr. Smith’s advice; she also mentioned that Miss Rudge was married last Tuesday and that she had received *Wedding Cake* and *Silver Favours* in abundance. Although this is rather out of date, yet I hope you and *Musgrave* do not mean to dispense with it, as I think it a very agreeable part of *the ceremony*. We are all much obliged to yourself and Sisters for the trouble you have taken concerning our Raffle, and we are only sorry that your endeavours were not attended with more success. Uncle and Aunt West unite with me in love to Aunt Humphry, your sisters and yourself, and with the kind regards of Miss Ward [the governess] believe me, my dear Cousin,

Ever most Affectionately Yours
Frances Woodgate.”

In March, 1825, the Wests took their niece to town to consult Dr. Clarke about her health, which had been rather irregular. They stayed a short time at Stockwell Common with the Whittons, who appear to have hired or purchased Stonewall of John Woodgate. Frances writes to Julia Humphry :—

“ Eastry’s Hotel, March 17th, 1825.

My dear Miss Julia,

Aunt Maria received your kind letter this morning ; we were all much pleased with the information it contained of the great improvement that appears to have taken place in Mrs. James West’s health since we left Tonbridge. A few lines from you on the subject were a great satisfaction to Uncle West, for although his Grandson James is a most excellent correspondent, he is rather heedless on some points. We left Stockwell Common yesterday, having spent a most delightful week there. Nothing could exceed the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Whitton, who did everything in their power to render our visit agreeable. Sophia Arundell (their niece) is a very nice girl, and I found her a remarkably pleasant companion. Mrs. Whitton has very kindly proposed a plan by acceding to which I think I should derive great benefit ; it is to return with her from Stone Wall at Easter and remain at Stockwell until Whitsuntide, by which I should have the benefit of five weeks of Sophia’s Masters. She has very good ones, both Music and Drawing. I sincerely hope this plan may be carried into execution, as it is an opportunity which may perhaps never occur again. I cannot say but what I should regret leaving the Postern for so long a time ; but it is impossible to obtain good masters in the Country. I am afraid my letter will be rather uninteresting as I have *no gaiety* to tell you of, not yet having visited any places of public amusement ; indeed, our time is fully occupied with Masters and visiting our different friends.

The day after our arrival at Stockwell we had an interview with Mr. Clarke. I am happy to say he does not prohibit *Dancing* ; he said I only required care. I am taking Lessons in Dancing of Mr. Steel, a son-in-law of Monsieur Henri’s ; I am to have four lessons a week, two at home and two at his Academy in Alfred Place, Bedford Square. His hours are rather inconvenient ; he attends us at half past seven at night, and we go to him at five o’clock, by which means we are prevented from partaking of any Evening’s amusements on *Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays*. We have a great wish to see Kean in Richard the third ; he will perform in that character on Monday next, and the entertainment will be the Pantomime of the talking Bird, singing tree &c &c. I hope we shall be able to attend the Theatre on that night. On Saturday we went to the Bazaar, where we spent an hour or two very agreeably. I think there is hardly an article you can mention but what *now* appears to be sold there, and really some at very moderate prices. With respect to *Opera Cloaks*, we have seen a great many, *good, bad, and indifferent*. I think the general price of a *good one* seemed to be from *three to five pounds*. You may get a *tolerably good one* for between *two and three pounds*, but *under two pounds* they are of a *very inferior description*. I have purchased one, which I think *very neat* ; I shall not tell you *the damage* until you have *seen it*. I shall only say *that it cuts rather deep into my quarter*. I have seen a beautiful Ball Dress at Eyles’s of plain white Blond. It was very prettily made, but I rather think *our operator* will be Mrs. Bean.

On Thursday last we set out with an intention of calling on Uncle and Aunt Boyne, having heard from Sir William Ashburnham that their present residence was in Half Moon Street ; we however searched the street from house to house, but could not gain any intelligence of them. Aunt Maria then wrote to Mr. Palmer requesting their direction ; he informed her that, their house in Portland Place being completed, they had removed there. We intend calling on them to-morrow. The Miss Morleys spent an hour or two with us this morning, they are both looking remarkably well ; we are going to dine with them to-morrow. We have likewise called on Lady Bailey, and the Burtons ; we are

engaged to dine with the latter on Friday week. We had two very pleasant dinner parties during our stay at Stockwell, the first of which concluded with a little *Quadrille*, to which as you may suppose I had not the *slightest objection*. We came to London almost every day, in fact our time passed as agreeable as possibly. William Woodgate called on us this afternoon. Aunt Maria and I were unfortunately at Mr. Steel's Academy, but he stayed some time with Uncle West. He has both Frank and Deci now with him. He is thinking of taking a house in Guildford Street. He likewise informed Uncle West that Henry has had a fall from his horse, but is doing well. I cannot close my letter without telling you how blessed I consider the County of Huntingshire in containing "*the delightful and fascinating Edward.*" Jane Harrison and I attach a great value to the little sprig of Geranium we received from him at parting; we *planted it* before we left the Postern, *christened it* "*the Edward,*" and intend to *cherish it with the most tender care*. We shall often think of it when the donor is many leagues distant. You will probably think from this letter that it will be necessary for me to take a few lessons in *writing*, as well as other *accomplishments*, but my hand *shakes* with my *exertions in dancing*, and the *Watchman* reminds me that it is time to *retire to rest*. I shall look forward with great pleasure to the prospect of receiving a *long letter* from you in a few days, so pray do not disappoint me, as it will take a *most serious effect on my nerves* etc, etc, Believe me, my dear Cousin,

Ever most affectionately & sincerely yours
Frances Woodgate.

Saturday. I was prevented from sending this letter yesterday as my Aunt wished to add a few lines, but she is so fully occupied that she requests me to say with her love that you *must take the will for the deed*. We were out yesterday the whole morning. We visited the British Gallery and were extremely pleased with some of the pictures. We likewise called on Aunt Boyne. She at first denied herself as the Carriage was at the Door and she was just going out, but upon sending up *our cards* we were *instantly admitted*. She appeared extremely delighted at the interview and said it was a pleasure she had long wished for. I did not see my Uncle as he was *ill*, but I was introduced to *my cousin*, who appears to be a *very agreeable* young man and I think *rather handsome*. We were asked to dinner but were obliged to refuse, being engaged *every day*. They have a most excellent house No. 15 Portland Place. I think this long letter deserves a *speedy answer*—a hint, *pray take it.*"

The next letter was written on her return to Stockwell Common:—

"Stockwell Common, April 23rd, 1825.

My dear Miss Julia,

Having half an hour at my own disposal (which amongst my *numerous engagements* is I assure you a very rare occurrence) I cannot employ it more to my own satisfaction than in scribbling a *few lines* to my cousin Julia, as that young Lady was so kind as to say, when I last saw her, that she should always be happy to hear from me; but I wish it to be perfectly understood that (like the rest of the world) I expect some *little return* for what I do, therefore I think you will not think me a very unreasonable *being* when I solicit the favour of hearing from you occasionally. . . . I really am quite overpowered with *masters and mistresses*, but I like them all exceedingly. Saturday is our only vacant day. I have lessons in *Dancing twice a week, in Music twice a week, in Drawing once a week, and in Perspective once a week*. My greatest favourite is my dancing master; he explains everything so thoroughly that I think it is impossible not to derive benefit from his instruction. We attend Mr. Steel's Academy on Mondays and Thursdays, where we certainly witness some very *elegant Dancing*. Sophia Arundell and I were nearly *frightened to death* at the idea of *exhibiting* before so many proficient. The first time the ceremony was certainly *most awful and appalling*, but by degrees the panic has subsided and we now rather *enjoy it*. I think there are some of the prettiest and most elegant

looking girls I ever saw, and I am sure we shall learn *twice as much* by seeing others dance as by taking private lessons. I have no Gaieties to tell you of as our time now is entirely devoted to *business*; *pleasure is to come after to reward our industry*. Mrs. Whitton has given a *few hints* about going to the *Play*, the *Exhibition*, &c &c, which I hope will not end in hints. To-morrow two young Ladies are coming here to remain till Monday; one is Miss Dodd who perhaps you recollect having seen at Hastings, and the other is Miss Nelson, a friend of Mrs. Webster. Miss Dodd is a very agreeable girl, I like her very much. I believe the *female sex* is generally *accused* of having a great propensity to *talk write* and *think* about *Dress*; I am now going to prove the truth of this assertion as I cannot refrain from telling you what little I have seen of the *fashions*. . . . I received a letter from Aunt Maria yesterday. I think the *Posternites* seem to be in a *complete* bustle; I expect to see the house quite metamorphosed when I return. I am sorry to hear that Mrs. James West still continues in the same state; in a former letter Aunt Maria stated that she had some intention of going to Brighton but she does not mention a Word of it in this. She must find a great loss in Mr. Morris. I hope *little Mr. West* will exert himself and be as attentive as possible. One part of my Aunt's letter gave me the greatest uneasiness; she informed me that the *dear Edward plant* has departed this life. I hope it is not ominous of any misfortune befalling the original. I long to hear from Jane, as she marched off to Southampton very quietly with a slip which looked very thriving; I trust she will meet with better success. I think Mr. and Mrs. Whitton are really two of the kindest people I ever met with, but with all their kindness *Stockwell* is not *like Home*, and although I pass my time very pleasantly yet I shall not be at all sorry when *Whitsun-tide* comes. I hope you will not have left Tunbridge when I re-visit it, as I shall be very anxious to see you. How does the Book Club go on? I hear you're going to lose your Secretary for three weeks but I suppose he will delegate his authority to his friend Miss de St. Croix during his absence. I shall watch the arrival of the Post every morning very *anxiously*, therefore do not disappoint me, *there's a good one*."

Some of the letters are very long, and considerations of space make it necessary to leave out the usual messages at the end—general enquiries after health and conventional remarks. The next letter is chiefly about a dress which was intended to adorn the person of the writer at some of the At Homes at Hastings.

My dear Miss Humphry,

"Postern, Sept. 2nd [1826].

. . . . We think next week of visiting that *earthly Elysium* for a few days in order to take a house for the winter; I *sigh* for the time to arrive. We had a few friends to dinner on Thursday and we expected Uncle Stephen to join our party, but I am sorry to say, just as we were sitting down to dinner, a note arrived from Pembury informing us that the Baby was dangerously ill, and if a great change did not take place in two hours a consultation was to be held. We have not heard any intelligence since. We have heard to-day that Aunt Rose is much the same. *James is waiting to convey this to the post*, and I believe you are aware that he does not possess the *virtue of patience* in a very eminent degree."

The next is but a note to "her counsellor" about 1828:—

"My dear Miss Humphry,

We fully intend doing ourselves the pleasure of spending a morning at Seal, and as meeting Sir William and Lady Ashburnham will greatly add to the pleasure of our visit, we should feel much obliged by your writing us a few lines just to inform us when you expect your *august visitors* from London, that we may arrange our plans accordingly. *James* starts for *Ludlow* to day. The term ended on Tuesday, and of course he could not lose any time in flying to the presence of his "divine Margaret." My Uncle and Aunt and Mr. Brisco unite in kind remembrances to your circle, and believe me, thou most *able, discreet, and sage counsellor*, and thou most *kind affectionate and well-judging* of cousins, ever thine most truly,
Postern, Friday.

Frances Woodgate."

In January, 1828, Lady Ashburnham writes from Broomham: "Fanny Woodgate I am sorry to say appears in a delicate state of health and is advised to avoid much fatigue. I think she has been of late a good deal harrassed by *different suitors*. Mr. Wm. Palmer has been at Hastings twice lately & made proposals of marriage to her, I understand; he is coming down again on Saturday, but whether he is to be a *favoured Lover*. I am at a loss to conjecture. Mr. Musgrave Brisco has been paying her great attention but he *appears quite unsuccessful*."

In due course Frances Woodgate became engaged to Mr. Musgrave Brisco, and the lawyers were instructed to prepare the settlements (a). William Woodgate of Lincoln's Inn Fields acted for his cousin and Mr. Whitton for the Briscos. Their

(a) The Briscos of Coghurst, Hastings, were descended from the old Brisco family of Crofton Hall, Cumberland, now represented by Sir Musgrave Brisco, Bart.

Musgrave Brisco, younger son of John Brisco of Crofton, by Catherine his wife, the daughter of Sir Richard Musgrave, Bart, of Hayton Castle, married the heiress of Coghurst—Mary Fletcher Dyne, daughter of Edward Dyne of Coghurst and Lankhurst and Mary his wife (born 1714). The Dynes were great people at Hastings. In 1728, at the time of the King's Coronation, Edward Dyne (Baron of the Cinque Ports), Sir William Ashburnham of Broomham (one of the members for Hastings) and Thomas Pelham of Stanmer were deputed to support the King's canopy in the procession. Mr. Collier writes in 1727, "Mr. Dyne Came to Town this day about noon. I have been Plagued with him to Get his accountrements, but of this Take no notice, for I think I have by this managed soe as to Support the Queen's Canopy, wch I would not upon any acct loose. Itts vastly the Greatest Honor, & Indeed the Queen manages everything in the World." Mr. Collier, Col. Pelham of Crowhurst, and the Hon. Thomas Townshend, M.P. for Hastings supported the Queen's canopy. In 1760 the canopy bearers at the coronation of George III were Edward Milward, Mayor; William Ashburnham, M.P. for Hastings (husband of Alicia Woodgate, and one of the Barons of the Cinque Ports), and John Pelham. Musgrave Brisco was succeeded at Coghurst by his son,

Wastel Brisco, Captain in the Guards, who in 1777 was living in Yorkshire, where he had extensive property, and of which he was a Deputy Lieutenant. He lived latterly in Sussex, of which he was likewise a Deputy Lieutenant, and in the Commission of the Peace. He married on 24th October, 1785, Sarah Goulburn, and died on 25th January, 1834, leaving

- (1) *Musgrave* of Coghurst, a Magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant for Sussex and Yorkshire, b. 15th April, 1791, m. 8th October, 1828, Frances Woodgate. No issue.
- (2) Sarah, m. (firstly) 1810, William Camac of Hastings; secondly, Charles Alexander Lushington; thirdly, William Fletcher Norton. No issue. By the kindness of Mr. F. O. Fisher of St. Leonards, we are enabled to give the following particulars of Mr. Camac. He was the fourth son of John Camac of Maralin, Co. Down and Elizabeth his wife the daughter of Jacob Turner of Lurgan, Co. Down. Through the influence of Gwyn Burges, Paymaster to the Hon. E. I. Co., he was procured a Writership, and sailed in 1778 on board one of the Company's ships, commanded by Capt. Curzon. He was appointed Collector in a district called the Twenty-four Purgannaks. In 1781 his brother Col. Jacob Camac died, leaving him by will the estate of Rose Hall, Co. Louth. Continuing in India, he rose to be a Senior Merchant in the Company's service. In 1802 he held a commission in the Calcutta Militia Cavalry (*Genl's Magazine*, p. 489), and was still a Senior Merchant, but in 1810 returned home, and took a house in Portman Square. There, it seems, he met Miss Brisco, described as a young and beautiful girl. He died in April, 1837 (p. 461). This information reached us after the account given earlier in the book was written.
- (3) *Wastel*, of Bohemia House, Hastings, J.P. and D.L. for Sussex, b. 1792, m. 1822, Maria, daughter of John Lade of Broughton House, Kent, and left issue
 - (a) *Wastel*, b. 1824, whose daughter (we believe) married an Arbuthnot, and is now the owner of Bohemia House.
 - (b) Arthur Musgrave Dyne.
 - (c) Maria.
 - (d) Elizabeth.
 - (e) Sarah.

The arms are:—"Argent, three greyhounds courant in pale sable:" quartering the ensigns of Crofton, Whinnos, Skelton, Dyne, and Fletcher. Crest:—a greyhound courant sable in pursuit of a hare proper. Motto:—*gratâ sume manu*.

difficulties and disagreements were such that it was found impossible to fix the date with certainty, to the great distress of the *principals*. Mrs. West writes:—

“ My dear Lady Ashburnham,

I have had it in contemplation to write to you for some time past, but have delay'd it from week to week, in expectation of being able to name “ the great, the important day,” but the abominable Lawyers still keep us in most disagreeable uncertainty. The Settlements were before Mr. Whitton and William Woodgate for some weeks, but they never could come to an amicable understanding, and I shall always think that a previous hostility towards each other, arising out of a quarrel unconnected with the Settlements, occasioned a most acrimonious feeling, and was the cause of unnecessary delay. This procrastination became at last so unpleasant to the Mr. Brisco's and ourselves that we thought it advisable to withdraw the writings from Mr. Whitton and place them in the hands of Mr. Chalmers, Mr. B's family Solicitor, who was to act in concert with William, when we were led to hope that all difficulties would be immediately got over, and that the Wedding might take place in the course of a week. It is now nearly a fortnight since the writings were laid before Mr. Chalmers, & we have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of every post, telling us everything was amicably adjusted ; but unfortunately (*for us*) there is such a spirit of Matrimony abroad in the Land and he has so many settlements to attend to that he has not had time to give to *ours* that attention he deems necessary, but every day we expect to hear that all things are arranged satisfactorily, for the *Principals* are perfectly agreed, & the “ Law's delay ” is the only thing that retards the young people's happiness now. All this is very harassing to our spirits and I am fearful has already occasion'd much inconvenience to our friends, & I think it now remains in this uncertain & perplexing state, that the Marriage may take place next week, or be delayed a fortnight or three weeks longer. I can only say that we should feel much disappointed if we had not the pleasure of seeing you and Sir William, our most valu'd friends, at the Wedding, yet still I have no hesitation in saying that my Aunt Humphry's convenience & pleasure ought to be, and no doubt is, your first consideration, and it would be a thousand pities she should lose the benefit of change of air during this delightful season. Our party will be so numerous that it will be impossible for us to entertain our Friends as we could wish with a dinner, but if our *déjeuné* is as well conducted and goes off with the same spirit that a similar one did three years ago at Seal, we shall feel most happy.

I am sorry to hear Mr. Brisco senior is not improv'd in health ; I sincerely hope we shall have the pleasure of seeing him at the wedding, for “ methinks a Father is at the Nuptials of his son a guest that best becomes the table,” & his conduct has been so kind & honorable throughout our matrimonial proceedings that he will always be a most welcome visitor at the Postern. The near approach of “ the day ” makes me very nervous ; but I must, I shall have sufficient fortitude to enable me to bear the great trial that awaits me, when I shall have to surrender my dear & affectionate Fanny into other hands, but I have every confidence and hope that *he* into whose hands I resign my “ pearl of great price ” is truly deserving of the treasure he will possess & will justly appreciate her many amiable virtues ; for I know not a more excellent character than Mr. Musgrave Brisco, and from his having been domesticated with us so frequently for the last six months, we have had frequent opportunities of knowing and estimating his worth. I have in my time seen many “ stricken deer ” but really James out Herod's Herod, a more complete *Noodle* I never saw ; he is too ridiculous to laugh at. I am delighted to hear of Mr. Hamilton's marriage, may it prove a fore-runner to one at the Postern, for this uncertainty is very tiresome. Your friends at Dry Hill are all well, except for poor Rosetta, who has been on the sofa for the last week. Anna is returned from her tour & I suppose that you have heard that Miss Winchester is married at last. Remember me most kindly to Sir Wm & Mary Anne, and believe me, my dr Lady Ashburnham,
yours ever affectionately
M. West.

I paid the tribute of a few tears to the beautiful verses of Sir Wm. to Fanny: they touch'd me deeply."

The next letter, to Mary Anne Humphry, contains a request to her to act as bridesmaid at the approaching event.

"My dear Cousin,

I take the opportunity Mr. Musgrave Brisco's return to Hastings affords me to make you a little request which I have long *meditated*. You will probably anticipate the nature of it. Will you oblige me by gracing my Wedding with your presence? I assure you it will be conferring the greatest pleasure on me, as well as on many others. The day is not yet fixed, but in all probability it will be in the course of a fortnight or three weeks, at all events you may depend on my giving you timely notice. With our united kindest regards to Sir Wm. and Lady Ashburnham, believe me, my dear Cousin, Ever yours most affectionately

Frances Woodgate.

Postern, Monday night."

This was followed by another letter to Mary Anne Humphry which explains itself:—

"Postern Park, August 21st [1828].

My dear Cousin,

On perusing your letter (which my absence from home prevented me from sooner receiving) it appears you did not quite understand the nature of my request to you. Perhaps I was not perfectly *explicit* and *intelligible*, as I wrote in a great hurry, and a *certain person* was at my elbow all the time, talking to me, and I do not know how it is, but *certain persons* do occasionally distract the thoughts and bewilder the imagination. You will observe that I take all the blame upon myself, and do not even venture to *surmise* that any other *certain person* might have bewildered *you* and prevented *you* from reading my letter right, but now to the business of this letter which ought to be important after so long a preamble.

As the word *Bride's-maid* does not once occur in your letter, I fear you did not understand that it was my request you should oblige me by officiating in that capacity. I have had a personal interview with your sister Fanny on the subject and *she* perfectly understood me; and has consented to grace the bridal procession with her presence, therefore I trust, my dear Mary Anne, that you will be equally *obliging*, *good-natured*, *kind-hearted* etc etc. I assure you, you and your sister were among the first put down upon my list of *Bride's* maids; my others are to be Maria Allnutt, Anne Nouaille, Jane Woodgate, Clare Woodgate, Alicia West and Fanny Streatfeild, the latter having been my particular friend for some years past. Of course I do not presume to dictate your dress, but I must give you a *hint* that it is my particular wish *all my nymphs* should be *clad in virgin white*; I know it is contrary to the *present fashion*, but it is a whim of my own. The *materials* of the dress will of course be optional. The *disputes* and *squabbles* of the *Lawyers* render it impossible for us to fix any thing; it is really very provoking, after the very handsome and liberal manner in which Mr. Brisco senr has behaved that difficulties should arise between the Lawyers. We have been kept in a state of great suspense and anxiety for the last month. Throughout the whole affair no contention has ever arisen between Mr. Brisco and Uncle West; therefore as *the principals* are agreed, I think it is an unheard of thing that we are to be harassed and made uneasy, because William Woodgate and Mr. Whitton choose to quarrel. However I assure you this is the case. Mr. M. Brisco paid us a flying visit last Saturday, and he then said things were as unlikely to be settled as they were two months ago; however we have this morning received a letter from William Woodgate, by which it appears that affairs are going on more smoothly. I do not care about it myself, but I cannot bear to see those whom I *love* and *venerate* made uneasy, when they are doing every thing in their power to make things go on as they ought. I assure you *Niobe* has paid frequent visits to the Postern lately, and it would be difficult to find a more *doloroso* party than the four who sat down to

dinner the day Mr. M. Brisco visited us. Poor Mr. Brisco's declining health renders him very unfit to contend with so much anxiety, however I trust that our trouble will soon be put an end to; it only makes good the remark, "the course of true love never did run smooth," or at all events it's course is sure to be ruffled when those *necessary evils, settlements*, are introduced. I ought to apologize for troubling you with *my misfortunes*, but you know *out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh*.

I have been spending a few days at Chart's Edge lately; Mrs. Streatfeild is expecting shortly to be confined. I found my sister Clare much improved, *curling the hair* makes a wonderful alteration and softens the countenance considerably. We had a very merry family party here last Saturday week to celebrate my coming of age, and I received some very handsome presents on the occasion. I have not room to insert them all, and will therefore only mention two, which as they came from the two people I love best in the world were of value accordingly. One was a magnificent long blond Veil from Aunt Maria, to be worn *on a certain day*; the other was a beautiful set of Amethysts from Mr. Musgrave Brisco. Tonbridge is expected to be very gay this Evening, as there is to be a *magnificent display of fireworks* exhibited from Dr. Knox's play ground. We rather expect a visit from Rosa this morning, I am *dying* to hear an account of the Wedding which took place on Tuesday; I already *hold my head several inches higher* from the alliance with *the noble house of Buttanshaw*. The *happy pair of originals* are I believe gone to spend the honeymoon in the Isle of Wight. You may depend on my writing to Lady Ashburnham and yourself as soon as the day is fixed, and with our united kind regards to Sir Wm and Lady Ashburnham, believe me, my dear Cousin,

Yours most affectionately & sincerely
Frances Woodgate.

This being *the sixth* letter I have written this morning will I trust plead my excuse for the badness of *the penmanship*."

The wedding seems to have caused quite a flutter among the friends and relations. The Humphrys had been invited to Broomham, but put off the visit, and instead invited the Ashburnhams to Seal, so that all might be ready to attend the summons from the Postern whenever it should come, and afterwards go down to Broomham together. The Nouailles had fixed the date of their visit into Yorkshire, which they were obliged to postpone. The bridesmaids' dresses were either pearl or French white. They were eight in number, and by Mrs. West's desire, each came prepared with a bouquet of flowers tied with narrow white ribbon, to be put on for the return from the Church.

At last the day came, the eighth of October. The ceremony was performed at Tonbridge Church, after which the numerous guests assembled at the Postern. At the wedding feast Sir William Ashburnham recited some lines that he had composed for the occasion "which must have contributed," says Denny Ashburnham, "largely to the hilarity of the marriage feast; neither would the loyal sentiments borne on the Breezes of the blustering *West* lose their effect." After the honeymoon, the newly married couple stayed for some days at the Postern. "Mr. & Mrs. Musgrave Brisco," writes Miss Humphry on 6th November, "arrived at the Postern on Thursday last; Anne Nouaille went down on Saturday to give them a meeting and to attend the Bride to Tonbridge Church the following day. Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille dined and slept at the Postern on Tuesday. We have seen them this morning, and they tell us the period for the Bridal party proceeding to Hastings is not fixed. Mr. and Mrs. West either accompany them or go about the same time; previous to their departure they all purpose calling upon us. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Woodgate dined at the Postern on Tuesday, and the party all assemble at Pembury Vicarage to dinner to-morrow."

On the 15th November the Briscos returned to Hastings; Miss Humphry describes their entry: "On leaving Hastings we met Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave Brisco entering the Town. Mr. Brisco was on the *look out* anxiously awaiting their arrival,

which was announced by a merry peal from the Bells of St. Clements Church. The party at Mrs. Camac's yesterday [she was Musgrave Brisco's sister] was both numerous and brilliant, 20 at dinner including Sir Charles Lamb, Lady Montgomery and Lord Eglinton, Sir Wathen Waller and his son, Mr. and Mrs. Milward and many of the principal residents in the place with the addition of about forty more in the Evening. The Bride appeared to great advantage, looking beautiful, in white satten, with a set of pink topaz ornaments; her appearance and sweetness of manner were generally admired, and all concur in the opinion that Mr. Musgrave Brisco is a most fortunate man. *White* was the prevailing costume; the Miss Milwards were attired in white lace dresses over white satten, and Miss Milward said when her toilet was complete and she looked in the glass she was only afraid Mr. Musgrave Brisco would mistake her for his bride. On entering the room Lord Turner *immediately* made his way up to me, and commenced a conversation, and could scarcely be *persuaded* I was not the Miss Humphry he had seen before. Another curious mistake, my *old friend* Mr. Shorter came and congratulated me as *Mrs. Musgrave Brisco*. Poor Man! a convincing proof that his eyesight must indeed be lamentably defective. Mr. and Mrs. West are expected at Hastings Thursday next and are to join the party at dinner here on Saturday. Mrs. Brisco told us they had forty visitors yesterday morning. I should think she will not be sorry when the *ceremony* of her first introduction is over. . . . We are going this morning to call on the Bride and Bridegroom."

Miss Humphry's next letter to Seal is almost as interesting; it is dated 24th November:—

" Of the Ball you must not expect so animated and vivid a description as I probably should have given ten years ago. It was nevertheless very pleasant. A hundred and forty eight persons were present, and among several *stars* of less magnitude Mrs. Brisco shone pre-eminent. . . . The Bazaar is to be opened at the Assembly Room the 23rd & 24th of Decr; Lady Ashburnham, Mrs. Camac, Mrs. Brisco & Mrs. Milward have been solicited to act as Patronesses, and every Patroness is to have *two young Ladies* in waiting upon her. Mr. & Mrs. West appear most happy to rejoin their niece. Mrs. West is to bring Mrs. Brisco to pass a morning here some day this week. Mrs. Brisco says the reception and kindness she has received from all Mr. Brisco's family cannot be exceeded; and Lady Ashburnham adds in a postscript, "Mrs. M. Brisco is looking beautiful; from a conversation I had with Mr. Musgrave (the day they dined here) I think they will ultimately fix on a Residence in the country, and we hope not far from us."

In 1829 the Briscos paid a visit to France, during which they visited Calais, Boulogne, and St. Omer, and were much gratified with their trip, from which they returned in greatly improved health. On their return they hired a house in York Buildings, close to the Wests' house at Hastings, for six months, until they could be more permanently settled. Mary Anne Humphry writes in September:—

"Mr. & Mrs. Musgrave Brisco are settled for six months in a most commodious residence in York Buildings. Mrs. Musgrave is looking charmingly, in much improved Health and excellent spirits. Mr. & Mrs. James John West are to pass the early part of this week with them to attend the Races on Tuesday and to be present at the Ball the following Evening. Mrs. Mackenzie and myself are to join a Ladies party at Mrs. Brisco's on Tuesday after the sports of the morning are concluded, and in the evening we adjourn to the Heath out of compliment to the *Steward who calls the Play*."

The next January (1830) Sir William Ashburnham writes, "We dined at Hastings on Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave Brisco, and spent a very agreeable day there. This was the first dinner party which Mrs. Musgrave Brisco had given at her own house, and she received her guests, and conducted the whole arrangements of the day with much suavity, elegance and ease. She appeared in high spirits and was

looking remarkably well. The dinner party consisted of ourselves, Sir Wathan Waller, Mr. and Mrs. Camac, Mr. and Mrs. West, Major and Mrs. Rutledge, (Mrs. Rutledge is daughter to Mrs. Lambert who formerly resided at Beauport, and sister to Major General Sir John Lambert K.B.), the two Miss Milwards, Capt. Wathan &c. In the evening there was a large addition to the party too numerous to name individually."

In July, 1830, the Briscos passed a fortnight at the Postern while their new house was getting ready, at the end of which they returned to take possession. This new house seems to have been Coghurst—not the Coghurst which is mentioned so often later on, for that as yet was not built—but Old Coghurst, the house of Mr. Brisco senior. While Lady Ashburnham was on a visit to Seal in October, 1830, Sir William passed much of his time with the Briscos. He writes on the 3rd, having met them on his return to Broomham, "Mrs. Musgrave Brisco was looking as charming as usual; both she and Mr. Musgrave were extremely cordial, and pressed me very much to partake of a family dinner with them to day to meet old Mr. Brisco who is just returned from the North. This kind invitation I readily accepted, and shall walk over to Coghurst as soon as the evening service at Guestling is finished."

On the 5th: "I dined on Sunday at Coghurst, and I think the Brisco's have got a most comfortable house. Mr. and Mrs. Brisco, old Mr. Brisco and myself formed the whole of the party. I had a fine moon light night in which to walk home. Mr. and Mrs. William Camac come from town on Thursday to Hastings, on which day they dine with old Mr. Brisco, who has very civilly invited me to meet them, which invitation I have accepted."

He writes on the 8th, "I dined yesterday at old Mr. Brisco's, where I met merely a family party consisting of himself, Mr. and Mrs. Camac, and Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave Brisco. The Camacs were just arrived from London; they appeared to be in remarkably good health and spirits, and seemed to have derived much pleasure and amusement from their excursion into the north. Mrs. Camac was looking uncommonly well, notwithstanding she was greatly disfigured by wearing an *immense* and very *ugly* cap. She represents Harrowgate as having been extremely gay; she said that she attended nineteen balls during her stay there, and that they generally sat down to table above fifty in company. Mrs. Musgrave Brisco flattered me by requesting me to give her my advice on the arrangement of her flower garden; and for this purpose I am to spend the morning to-morrow at Coghurst. I told Mrs. Musgrave Brisco that I should be most happy to afford any assistance in my power, but that to form the plan of an entirely new pleasure garden would require some consideration. My flower garden was formed by degrees, and the shape of the ground and the forrest trees that actually stood there gave a turn to the plan and arrangement."

On 11th October, Sir William writes: "I spent the morning on Saturday at Coghurst to attempt to plan Mrs. Musgrave Brisco's flower garden. I have given her the hasty sketch of a design which she will make what use of she pleases. There is plenty of space, and the ground lies well towards the sun for shrubs and flowers; but I am afraid, like most places in this part of the country, it will be very much exposed to the south westerly winds. As every thing is to be created, it must be many years before any plan can be expected to develope itself. Mrs. Musgrave Brisco was looking remarkably well, and seemed quite wrapt up in the prospect of her future flower garden." Soon after this letter Sir William Ashburnham set out to join the party at Seal, and the letters ceased.

Sir William's next letter, referring to the Briscos, mentions a curious but fortunate mistake of Musgrave Brisco who had supposed Broomham to be ablaze. This was in September, 1831, at the time of the Reform Bill, when the Duke of Wellington was stoned in the streets of London and the infuriated populace throughout

England set fire to stacks and houses, and exhibited many other "glorious marks of liberty," as John Acton would have said. The neighbourhood of Hastings did not escape the contagious disaffection; there were several cases of arson, and Mr. Brisco had some reason for his belief; for though no man less deserved the unpleasant attentions of the mob than Sir William Ashburnham, yet on that very account he was the more likely to be sacrificed to its unreasoning fury. He writes:—

"I called yesterday at Coghurst, and found Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave Brisco both at home. Mrs. Musgrave is looking remarkably well, and in very good spirits. She told me that she expected her Aunt Allnutt and her cousin Maria at Coghurst on Saturday, on their return from Mr. Bayley's near Dover. Mrs. Allnutt I suppose goes home on Monday, as Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave Brisco leave Coghurst on that day for the Postern in the way to Mrs. Streatfeild's at Charts-edge to attend the christening of her youngest child, which ceremony is to take place on Tuesday. Mr. Musgrave Brisco told me that during my stay in Kent, one evening after it was dark, he saw a tremendous blaze exactly in the direction of Broomham; in consequence of which he summoned his Servants and collected the workmen from the farmhouse at Old Coghurst [which must have been a still older Coghurst] and sallied forth to my assistance; but when he approached the fire he found it was occasioned by John Venis burning rubbish. Mr. Musgrave Brisco's exertions were very friendly, and I feel much obliged to him. You have probably heard that Mrs. Wastel Brisco has had an increase to her family; she was safely delivered of a daughter as long ago as the 29th of last month. I am sorry to learn that poor Mrs. Camac is confined at Harrowgate with a fit of the gout. This is very unlucky, and will cast a great damp upon the gaities of the Hastings races."

In November, 1832, Sir William Ashburnham called at Coghurst to arrange the purchase of two cart horses; but was disappointed at finding that both Mr. and Mrs. Brisco had gone out, the former on horseback, the latter to Hastings to bathe; "I should have thought it too late in the year for bathing," he observes, "but I hope Mrs. Brisco finds it, by experience, beneficial." A day or two later he went over again, and was more fortunate, though he found Mr. Brisco unwilling to sell the horses which Sir William wanted. "They were both extremely civil," he writes, "I spent a long morning with them, and partook of a slight repast. . . . Mrs. Musgrave Brisco mentioned to me a very melancholy circumstance. Mrs. Brisco, the wife of Sir Wastel Brisco's eldest son, a very young woman, who has not been married twelve months, was attacked with a cough and a complaint on her lungs, and the air of Penrith in Cumberland was thought too cold for her, and she was ordered to Hastings where she improved in health; but she came to Coghurst and spent a few days with Mrs. Musgrave Brisco, and she there unfortunately caught a severe cold, which brought back her malady with such increased violence that her medical attendants now pronounce her to be in a decided consumption with scarcely a hope of recovery."

Mr. Brisco senior died on 25th January, 1834. During his lifetime he made a very liberal allowance to both his sons, who were both left very well off, though the bulk of his fortune was left to the elder son. Miss Humphry writes on 1st March: "The distribution Mr. Brisco has made of his property, it is to be feared, may cause dissensions in the family. Having made his younger son so liberal an allowance during his lifetime, it is to be regretted with so ample a fortune he should not have made an adequate provision at his decease, which he might have done, still leaving a splendid fortune for Mr. Musgrave, who I heartily hope with his amiable wife may long enjoy, and make a good use of so large an accession of wealth."

To the elder son, Musgrave, he left Coghurst and the extensive estates in Yorkshire; Wastel, the younger son, had Bohemia House and a large tract of territory which gives its name to that part of the town; a good deal of it is now built upon and must yield a very large revenue. It belongs we believe to Mrs. Arbuthnot, daughter of the late Mr. Brisco. At that time Coghurst brought in £6,000 a year.

On his accession, Musgrave Brisco decided to rebuild Coghurst. He secured the services of Decimus Burton, the architect who restored Spring Grove and built St. Leonards. The new house was something after the style of Summerhill, on a more confined scale. It had the same beautiful gables and was built of white stone, at a cost, it is said, of £30,000. The drive was entered by a handsome gateway, adorned with the Brisco arms carved up in stone with the arms of Woodgate on an inescutcheon. These arms are still there.

Lady Ashburnham writes of Coghurst on 1st July, 1834, "Yesterday we had a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Brisco, both looking remarkably well and in excellent spirits. The first stone of the new house at Coghurst was laid on Saturday by Mrs. Brisco. Mr. Decimus Burton attended, & Mr. Gilpin the Father of the clergyman at Seven-oaks (who is a professional layer out of grounds) was present on the occasion. As far as I could understand the plan it will be a very handsome edifice, the ground floor of which will contain six spacious apartments. Mr. Burton undertakes to roof it in in the course of next summer. Mr. & Mrs. Brisco have been staying at the Albion Hotel; they leave Hastings on Saturday and purpose starting for the North very shortly."

Mrs. Brisco was considered one of the great beauties of Sussex. After her marriage she devoted much of her time to the poor of Guestling, Icklesham, Ore and Westfield; her pastime consisted in making them articles of clothing, her pleasure in presenting them. She was wonderfully skilled with the needle, and was accustomed to hold sewing classes at Coghurst for the school children. She was devoted to her Aunt West, whom she regarded with filial affection; and when Mrs. West was staying at Hastings, used to make her a daily visit. On such occasions, as we have been told by one who knew her well, Mrs. West's face would light up with pleasure as Mrs. Brisco entered the room, followed by a servant laden with fruit, flowers, or game. The relations between the Briscos and Ashburnhams were of the most cordial description, such as must have subsisted from a sense of mutual esteem and affection, and not merely because they were neighbours or cousins. Whenever the Ashburnhams went to London, the Briscos placed their town house, in Devonshire Place, at their absolute disposal, whether they were themselves there or not.

At the end of 1834, when Coghurst was still building, Mrs. Brisco writes from her temporary house at Hastings, in Wellington Square:—

"My dear Lady Ashburnham,

Will you and Sir William give us the pleasure of your company for a few days next week? We really shall be truly glad to see you. I will promise you a *well-aired bed* tho' perhaps not a very *spacious* apartment, but this I know you will kindly excuse. Mrs. Camac expects a very good ball on Monday. Now we really hope you will come to us on that day, and we can all adjourn in the Evening to Mrs. Camac's; she expects a great many county families, and Sir John Conroy and some of the gentlemen of the Duchess of Kent's suite. Mrs. Camac begs me particularly to tell you that she hopes you will not consider having refused the invitation in the first instance, but waive all ceremony and grace her party on Monday night. We intend having a few friends to dinner on Wednesday, and I hope we shall be able to amuse you for the rest of the week. Mr. Brisco and my sister [Clare Woodgate] unite with me in kindest regards to yourself and Sir William, and believe me, dear Lady Ashburnham, your most affectionate Cousin

Frances Brisco.

36, Wellington Square, Friday [6th November, 1834]"

In 1834 the parties in Parliament were very evenly balanced, and a general election seemed imminent. Musgrave Brisco determined to offer himself for election; he was a staunch *Tory*, and had an influential and energetic supporter in his sister, Mrs. Camac. A lady of Hastings writes on 22nd December, 1834, "I suppose you have heard that Musgrave Brisco intends offering himself as a candidate

for the borough, and Mrs. Camac of course supports his cause very warmly. There will be four other candidates—Planta a staunch Tory, Elphinstone a Radical, Warre I think a Whig, and North whom they say was a Whig when they were in power but a Tory in his heart. It seems very doubtful at present whose cause is most successful. Mrs. Camac is very violent about it, and not only goes about canvassing herself but actually threatens people if they refuse their vote."

The same lady writes on 5th January, 1835, describing the party given by the Duchess of Kent, who was staying at Hastings with the Princess Victoria and her suite, and her introduction both to the Duchess and the Princess Victoria; her father had been unwell, so she was taken to the party by the Briscos. She adds: "The election begins this week. Mr. Elphinstone is to be proposed by Mr. Handcock. He must indeed be in want of a friend if he cannot find a better man than Mr. H. He will have to make a speech, and I hear there is a large party going to hiss him. The hustings are erected in the open space at the bottom of the Square; there is also another at the top of High Street. I expect there will be a regular sparkle up. We are going in early this morning on purpose to see the fun. It seems at present very doubtful who will come in."

The polling ended in a victory for Mr. Elphinstone the Radical. Musgrave Brisco, nothing daunted, stood again in 1837 when Mr. Elphinstone gave up the seat. Miss Humphry describes the situation in February, 1837:—"Mr. and Mrs. Brisco have had the Influenza very severely; at one time Mr. Brisco was considered in an alarming state. They are both I am happy to say sufficiently recovered to get out again. We met them at Hastings on Friday morning. Mr. Elphinstone has intimated his intention of withdrawing from the representation of Hastings in the event of a dissolution of Parliament, in consequence of which four candidates have entered the field—Mr. Planta, Mr. North, Mr. Brisco, and a Mr. Holland, the latter gentleman on the Reform Radical interest—so that Hastings is likely to be warmly contested, and I fear party feeling will again intrude and interrupt the harmony of the neighbourhood. From the activity that prevails amongst the Conservative party, I should imagine a change of Ministry is anticipated."

In July the Briscos, who had left Hastings for a visit, were recalled by the unpleasant tidings of their opponents' activity; but in spite of his exertions, Mr. Brisco was again unsuccessful.

About this time Mr. Camac died. Miss Humphry writes on 15th August, 1837:—"Mr. and Mrs. Camac left London for Harrogate on Saturday week; on the last stage of their journey poor Mr. Camac (who previously had been better than usual) experienced an apoplectic seizure—medical aid was immediately resorted to, and it was thought advisable to pursue the journey. He never spoke afterwards, and without the least suffering expired the night after his arrival at Harrogate. It was a most distressing situation for Mrs. Camac. The intelligence reached Coghurst Saturday evening. Mr. Brisco and his brother started early the following morning to join their sister. Mrs. Brisco came here (Broomham) on Sunday and staid till we went to Winchelsea yesterday. We lament that Mr. Brisco lost his election for Hastings. The respectable part of the Inhabitants were with him, and their bringing in such a character as Mr. Holland in preference shews that the elective franchise has gone too low, & vested power in the hands of those who do not know how to use it for their real interest."

In October of that year the Briscos celebrated the anniversary of their wedding day, "by giving a most hospitable entertainment at Coghurst to large numbers of the tradespeople and workpeople. The festivities were on an extended scale, and several hundred persons were regaled in the good old English style of hospitality. The health of the liberal Host and kindhearted Hostess was drank by the assembled guests with much enthusiasm. We [the Ashburnhams] were invited to join a large Family circle to witness the entertainment, but unfortunately were prevented

being present. We are to dine at Coghurst one day this week to meet our Kentish friends."

The next month witnessed the presentation of plate to Mr. Brisco by his supporters at the Election. Miss Humphry writes, on 30th November. "On Monday last we passed the morning at Coghurst to witness the presentation of a piece of Plate voted to Mr. Brisco by the electors who supported him at the late Election for Hastings. The day was most favourable and it was a very interesting scene. The Procession consisted of from four to five hundred persons preceded by a band of music and Banners bearing appropriate inscriptions. They were received by Mr. & Mrs. Brisco standing in the centre of the porch of their Mansion & surrounded by a party of their friends. On the arrival of the Cavalcade a Banner was presented to Mrs. Brisco (thro' the medium of Mr. Brown) from the wives of the Electors. It was very handsome, composed of white silk, with a deep fringe of orange colour and tassels of the same to correspond; the Brisco crest was beautifully executed on the top, and underneath the following inscription 'To Mrs. Brisco from the wives of the Electors of Hastings who supported Musgrave Brisco Esqre at the Election in July, 1837.' This Banner is placed in the Hall, where it forms a conspicuous and gratifying ornament. The presentation of Plate to Mr. Brisco by the senior elector present then took place. It is an elegant article, intended as a center ornament for the table, composed of a mixture of bright burnished and dead silver; the design, a triangular vase, upon which two Cupids are planted upon a lion, supporting an Epergne—on the three sides of the pedestal are engraven the Brisco arms, the arms of the Town of Hastings, and the Inscription. Mr. Brisco returned thanks in an excellent speech, and after partaking refreshments in a Tent erected opposite to the House this numerous party separated, on all sides highly gratified by the results of the day. Mrs. Camac was delighted and the good people of Hastings appear quite reinstated in her favour."

After one of the elections, Mr. Brisco gave a great dinner to his supporters. *On dit* an old man in smock frock rose to his feet during the post-prandial speeches and uttered the wish that Mrs. Brisco might "be hung, drawn and quartered"—(pause: general consternation)—"hung with golden chains, drawn in a carriage and four, and finally quartered in Heaven."

In August, 1838, Lady Ashburnham writes:—

"Mr. & Mrs. Brisco are making a tour in Scotland. They intend visiting Glasgow and Edinburgh, with the lakes adjacent, and are expected to return to Coghurst early in September. Mrs. Camac has been at Hastings for a few weeks; she is however about leaving and intends making an excursion to Leamington and afterwards to the North of England. In November she proceeds to Paris to pass the winter."

That winter was exceptionally severe, and great distress prevailed amongst the poorer inhabitants of the neighbourhood. Mr. and Mrs. Brisco contributed to alleviate it by giving, amongst other liberal benefactions, fifteen pairs of blankets to the poor of Guestling, and a generous supply of meat and bread twice a week to twenty poor families of that parish, and to double the number of families in Ore and Westfield.

About that time Mrs. Francis Woodgate had been very unwell, and passed some time with her sister, after which she went for change of air to Mrs. John Allnutt's at Clapham. She and her husband were again at Coghurst in August, when Miss Humphry writes, on the 27th, "We spent the anniversary of Mrs. Brisco's birthday at Coghurst & enjoyed walking over their place exceedingly. The Turret entrance Mr. Brisco is making will be a beautiful erection, and from being situated on a prominent spot will be visible from all points of the neighbourhood. Mr. Brisco is also building a kitchen garden and green house, so that he is at present surrounded by workpeople. Mr. & Mrs. Francis Woodgate are passing a week at Coghurst, and we are going to call on them this morning."

In March, 1840, Lady Ashburnham writes, "Mr. and Mrs. Brisco go to Town to-day. Coghurst is to be painted and papered during their absence; and they intend completing the furnishing of the House this Summer. Mrs. Brisco has built extensive Wall gardens, and is continually improving his grounds. Mrs. Brisco's sister Mrs. Francis Woodgate's little Boy is just turned of a twelve month and begins to talk and runs alone."

The following letter in rhyme must have been sent by Mrs. Brisco to her sister about 1843.

1

 " My dearest Clare,
 I hope you're aware
That the pattern garment you had lent me
 Is two inches more wide
 From side to side
Than the set which to make you have sent me.

2

 So you see, my dear,
 It is quite clear
That your little garments when finish'd,
 Tho' quite as long
 And just as strong,
Yet in width will be somewhat diminish'd.

3

 The children all,
 Both great and small,
With cotton and needle and thimble
 Are working away
 By night and day,
And they really appear very simple.

4

 When last I wrote
 I had a sore throat
Which to leave me appears most unwilling;
 I am now in bed
 With a pain in my head;
It's influenza—I'll bet you a shilling!

5

 The snow was so deep
 Tho' we tried to sweep
From our front door up to Kennard's,
 Yet we could not ride
 Without fear of a slide
To Hastings or to Saint Leonards.

6

 I saw with dismay
 That t'was Valentine's day
And the weather grew worse and not better;
 And it made me fret,
 That I could not get
For dear Harry or Anna a letter.

7

 On Thursday last,
 Tho' it snowed quite fast,
Dear Sep. at York Buildings safe popp'd in;
 He did not fail
 To come by the rail,
A mode we are all now adopting.

8

I am happy to tell
 That he looks very well
 And I hope will get strong and hearty :
 He says on Mon-day
 Southwick Crescent was gay
 And the Crofts had a Polka party.

9

Fine was the night
 And the lamps were bright
 And the party tho' small was charming ;
 I heard nothing of Francis,
 But Jane Corbet dances
 The Polka—its really alarming !

10

.....
 That nice young maiden
 I'm glad still at Hastings is staying ;
 She's a sweet little guest
 For my dear Aunt West,
 And amuses us all by her playing.

11

The weather grows cold,
 Yet Wastel is bold,
 And in spite of the weather keeps moving ;
 He goes on as he ought
 With good Mr. Faught
 And in learning is greatly improving.

12

Churchill one day
 Gave his tongue such way
 That he greatly offended his master ;
 So the truth to speak
 A new butler we seek
 To make *up* for that sad disaster.

13

On Tuesday at eight
 In her chariot of state
 Mrs. Lushington starts for the season :
 To London she goes
 All through the snows,
 It's really enough to freeze 'un.

14

I think I discover
 That she has a lover,
 But marriage must not yet be thought on :
 But I'll tell you in rhyme
 That all in due time
 I think she'll become Mrs. Norton.

15

Now joy to you all,
 In bower and hall,
 In Spring when is hatched the young chicken ;
 In Summer gay,
 And on Christmas day,
 And in Autumn when hops they are picking.

16

First to Frank and Clare,
 Then to Harry the fair,
 Then to sweet little Musgrave *the genius*,
 To dear little Anna,
 With her graceful manner,
 And to fat little Fanny the *Venus*.

17

Joy, joy to you all,
 Both great and small,
 To the little and to the full-grown;
 Joy, joy to you all
 Both short and tall
 Around Falconhurst's merry heath-stone."

Here there is a gap till 1852, when Mrs. Brisco writes from London :—

" Ellis' Hotel, St. James's St., Decbr 11 [1852].

My dear Lady Ashburnham,

I have been every day expecting to return to Coghurst and have therefore delayed making you my annual request concerning the *school children*. However as the time of our departure from Town still seems very uncertain, and Christmas being so near, I think I cannot delay writing to request you would have the very great kindness to select twelve girls from the Guestling school to receive Cloaks or Frocks and I should be still further obliged to you if you would direct them to be at Coghurst on Wednesday morning at eleven o'clock, and I will have a person there ready to measure them. . . . I was never in London for so long a period at this season of the year before, but it is much more cheerful than I expected as we find a good many friends here—the Mackenzies, Sir A. and Lady Croft, the George Palmers, and my Uncle and Lady Boyne, all of whom have been excellent neighbours ; my Aunt Stephen [Woodgate] also, so that I have not been a day without visitors, and when I have been well enough I have dined with them en famille on the many long evenings Mr. Brisco has spent at the House of Commons. There is a good deal of excitement just now about the *Budget*, and various are the opinions expressed about the " ways and means " proposed by our *bold* Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he avowed last night that Ministers were determined to carry the Budget as a *whole* measure, so by *that* they must *stand or fall*. If the Peelites, Whigs, *Manchester School* and the *Irish Brigade* all unite against Ministers, the struggle will be a serious one. Monday night will be the grand fight. Being so near the scene of action makes one *quite nervous*. . . . We have had, in addition to our *public* anxieties, *private* ones also. The election petition brought against us made me really ill ; to be accused of bribery is so dreadful and I am so angry with the people for pretending to think Musgrave could do any thing *wrong*, after they have known him as they have for nine years. No one knows what I have suffered ; and had I been at Coghurst, I think I should have died. I do not think I slept an hour together during the whole three weeks the cause was going on, but now all is happily terminated. Musgrave bore it much more like a philosopher than I did. I really think Mr. Robertson *was frightened*, but Mr. Brisco was not at all. *I* suffered enough for both members put together. We are longing to get back to Coghurst again."

On 1st September, 1853, Mrs. Brisco writes inviting Lady Ashburnham to dine, to partake of a haunch of venison just arrived from Sir Wastel Brisco.

In February, 1854, Mrs. Brisco writes lamenting she had not been able to call at Broomham before she left Coghurst ; she and her husband, the latter especially, had been very unwell. " Poor Septimus left us last Tuesday week," she says, " not thinking his brother William worse than usual, but he only arrived in time to witness the closing scene, as his brother died four hours after his arrival."

In March, her husband grew worse ; she writes on the 31st :—

“ 38, Devonshire Place, March 31st [1854].

My dear Lady Ashburnham,

Your kind and affectionate letter should not have remained so long unanswered had not its postscript informed me that you had heard from Mrs. Monck of the state of my dear husband's health. . . . Soon after we came to Town, the cough and difficulty of breathing increasing, we called in Dr. Watson, and he alas ! confirmed what Mr. Duke had told me at Coghurst, that there was great want of power in the action of the heart, altho' no disease in the organ itself. The next day he made a more particular examination with the stethoscope, and then told me he had also detected something wrong in the right lung. This he dates from the rupture of the small blood vessel in the throat in December. . . . Some days I am all hope, and then again my heart fails me when I witness the extraordinary emaciation, but I put my trust in Him who alone can help, and I trust that my hourly prayers at the Throne of Mercy for him who is my “all” in this world may yet be answered. No one *can* tell my anxiety. Dear Anne [Nouaille] is a great comfort to me, she is always so considerate and kind. My poor Aunt Stephen has been very ill since the death of her son. She repressed her feelings too much at first and is now suffering from re-action, but I have had a better account of her this morning.”

Her husband died soon afterwards ; and the next letter, dated December, 1854, in deep mourning, was written to invite Lady Ashburnham and Miss Humphry to make her a visit to 20, Eversfield Place, Hastings, where she was staying.

She writes again in May, 1858, pressing Lady Ashburnham to make a stay in town, at Devonshire Place. She signs her letter “Frances Frewen.” She had married, in 1856, Mr. Charles Hay Frewen of Cold Overton Hall, Leicestershire, Member for East Sussex from 1846 to 1857. They continued to occupy Coghurst though they spent a good deal of time in Leicestershire, where Mr. Frewen enjoyed the hunting.

In March, 1860, she writes from Cold Overton to Lady Ashburnham, mentioning her nephew Harry Woodgate :—

“ I had a letter from my sister last week informing me that dear Harry's regiment has been ordered to China, at which he is much delighted as he was quite tired of a quiet life in India. Really one would think these youths were tired of life, so anxious do they seem to get into the battlefield again. I cannot say that our neighbours at Melton Mowbray are *very quiet* ; on the contrary, their proceedings are very frisky. What do you think of Lord Grey de Wilton and two of the Ladies Egerton and Mr. and Lady Mary Craven and *our member* Mr. Hartopp acting a play in the public corn exchange, where any body who could pay *three and sixpence* might be spectators ! As Mr. Frewen says, *private* theatricals in one's own house are all very well, as every man's house is his castle, and if they like to *stand on their heads* there, nobody can say them nay. The highest tickets were 12/6, the next 7/6, and the next 3/6. All I can say is, young ladies did not do so in my time.”

In August, 1860, Mr. and Mrs. Frewen took a long tour to the North, and saw everything as far as Sutherland. They passed some time in the Highlands. A very long letter to Lady Ashburnham describes their adventures. “ While at York,” she says, “ we drove over to Bishop's Thorpe to see the picture of Archbishop Frewen which hangs over the dining room chimney there ; he built a great part of the palace. The gardens are very pretty indeed. We then returned to the Minster to see his tomb in the Lady Chapel, which Mr. Frewen of Brickwall has lately restored.”

Her last remaining letter was also written to Lady Ashburnham :—

“ 38, Devonshire Place [6 June, 1864].

. . . I have been under anxiety since my return about my poor sister Clare, who is at her Mother's in Brook Street, having come up to Town for medical advice.

Her complaint proved to be *internal* tumour for which she underwent an operation last Monday, and I am happy to say it turned out a most successful one. She bore it wonderfully well and has gone on since as well as possible. She has been downstairs four days and takes her first drive with me to day."

Mrs. Frewen died in 1867; her husband died in 1878. She left no children. Most of her property returned to the Briscos; some went to the Frewens; and a small portion, much less than her original Woodgate fortune, fell to the share of her Woodgate nephews and nieces. Nearly all her beautiful jewellery went to two Miss Briscos who attained a great age and died possessed of immense wealth. We have been told that Coghurst descended to one of the Miss Briscos who conveyed it away, to Sir Wastel Brisco, three years before her death. It now belongs to Sir Musgrave Brisco, the present baronet.

CHAPTER XVII.

WOODGATE OF PEMBURY.

The Rev. Stephen Woodgate, born in 1780, was the youngest son of William Woodgate of Summerhill. Some account of his school life at Tonbridge, and of his Oxford days, has been given already. He took his degree in 1802, and two years afterwards, while still at Oxford, was presented by his father to the living of Pembury.

He married in 1809 at St. George's, Hanover Square, Frances Hardinge (a), who (according to Ozias Humphry) had a fortune of £10,000. Her eldest brother, Sir Charles Hardinge, was Vicar of Tonbridge; another brother was Lord Hardinge, Governor General of India; and a third Captain George Nicholas Hardinge, R.N.—the hero of the "*Piedmontaise*" (b). Miss Hardinge's aunts and her grandmother

(a) The family of Hardinge has been seated from an early period at King's Newton Hall, Derbyshire. Sir John Hardinge of King's Newton Hall, a Master in Chancery, raised a Royalist troop of horse for Charles II; his grandson Nicholas, Clerk of the House of Commons, Secretary of the Treasury, M.P. for Eye, and Recorder of Kingston, m. Jane, dau. of Sir John Pratt, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and sister of Charles, 1st Earl Camden. He died in 1758. she in 1807 (see p. 308), leaving issue

1. George, Attorney General to the Queen and Chief Justice of the Brecon circuit, b. 1743, m. Lucy, dau. and coheir of Richard Long, and d. 26th April, 1816, s.p.
2. *Henry*, of whom presently.
3. Sir Richard Hardinge of Belleisle, Co. Fermanagh, Bart., b. 1755, m. 1st on 6th May, 1793, Mary, dau. of Ralph Gore, Lord Ross; and 2nd on 14th March, 1826, Caroline, dau. of Major General Wolf. He d. in November, 1826, s.p.
4. Jane, b. 1740, m. at Seal 1st September, 1767, Henry Cresset Pelham of Crowhurst, only son of Thomas Pelham, M.P. for Lewes, and Elizabeth his wife (the daughter of Henry Pelham), and grandson of Sir Nicholas Pelham of Cottisfield Place, Sussex, M.P., who was the son of Sir Thomas Pelham of Loughton, Bart., and M.P. for Sussex in 1654.
5. Caroline, of the Grove, Seal, b. 1747, d. 23rd April, 1826, unm.
6. Juliana, of the Grove, d. 1822 unm.

The Rev. *Henry Hardinge*, Rector of Stanhope, Durham, b. 2nd September, 1754, m. 4th June, 1779, Frances, daughter of James Best of Park House, Boxley, High Sheriff of Kent. He d. 7th September, 1810, she 27th October, 1837, leaving issue

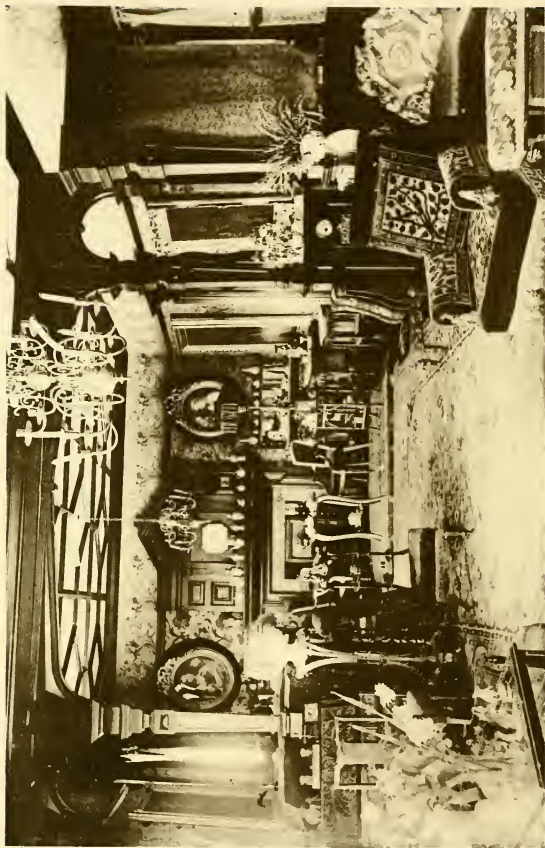
1. Rev. Sir Charles Hardinge, Bart., of Bounds Park, near Tonbridge, Vicar of Tonbridge, b. 22nd March, 1780, m. 13th June, 1816, Emily-Bradford, 2nd dau. of Kenneth Callender of Craigforth, Co. Stirling, ancestor of the Hardinges of Bounds (see Debrett).
2. George Nicholas, Commander R.N., b. 11th April, 1781, killed in action.
3. Frances, b. 1783, m. REV. STEPHEN WOODGATE, Vicar of Pembury, Kent.
4. Henry, 1st Viscount Hardinge, Governor General of India, Commander in Chief of British Army, &c., purchased South Park, m. 10th December, 1821, Lady Emily Jane, dau. of the Marquis of Londonderry and widow of John James (see Debrett).
5. Richard, Major-General R.A., b. 1790, m. Anne, eldest dau. of Thomas Papillon of Acrise; 2nd Caroline-Johnson, youngest daughter of Kenneth Callender of Craigforth. Had issue.
6. Frederick, b. 1801, m. 1829 Hannah Elizabeth, dau. of Warren Maude of Green Bank, Darlington.
7. Caroline, m. 1828 Major-General Palliser, R.A., and had issue.

(b) Captain Hardinge, being in command of the *St. Fiorenzo* in March, 1808, captured under great difficulties, after a fight lasting for three days, the French frigate "*La Piedmontaise*," a ship of very superior power and mounting fifty guns. Hardinge was killed by a grape shot discharged the second broadside in the last action. The French had 160 casualties, the English 38.

He had previously distinguished himself by his gallant conduct in boarding and taking a large Dutch man of war brig off the coast of Holland, for which enterprise Lord St. Vincent promoted him to the rank of Post Captain. On landing at Sheerness and handing in his report



PEMBURY HALL, Kent.



THE DRAWING ROOM, Pembury Hall.

resided at the Grove, Seal, and are continually mentioned in the Humphry chapter. Her father was Rector of Stanhope, a living then worth £5,000 a year.

The advowson, the manors of Great and Little Hawkwell, and an extensive tract of land in Pembury had been purchased by William Woodgate in 1788; the incumbent, the Rev. John Whitaker, was then sixty-six. He was for fifty years Vicar of Pembury, and died on 1st July, 1803 (*c*).

The Vicarage at Pembury (now much enlarged and known as Pembury Hall, having been purchased by the family from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners) was a very small house, and when Stephen became Vicar was enlarged by William Woodgate by the addition of a fine dining room and two adjoining rooms now thrown together and converted into the hall, which, with the old oak staircase, may be seen in the photograph. The dining room is of higher pitch than the rest of the house, as William Woodgate insisted that it should be the best room in the house. Stephen Woodgate subsequently added on two rooms next the dining room, which together now form the drawing room; of this a photograph is given. There was until lately an old view of the house in its former state at Kenward, the late Sir John Shaw's house at Pembury, showing the roadway running almost underneath the drawing room window. That road has now been diverted.

We have been thus particular in our description, as Pembury Hall (with Gimble Grove and some adjoining property) is all that remains to the family of the many thousands of acres that it once possessed. The oldest part of the house fell into a ruinous state, and was pulled down and rebuilt by the Rev. Reginald Stephen Shaw Woodgate, the present owner, who has lately added to it a billiard-room with bedrooms above, so that the house is now entirely Woodgate-built.

The whole place has been immensely improved, though at great cost. One piece of land belonging to Mr. Whitaker, being the land now occupied by the lawn and containing less than an acre, had to be bought by William Woodgate for £800; not because of its value, or that of the two old cottages on it, but because it lay in the very middle of the other land. The garden joins one side of the churchyard; and on the other side was Spring Grove, belonging to Stephen's brother Henry, the Lord of the Manor and principal landowner in the parish. The property likewise adjoins the Summerhill land, which ran close up to the old Vicarage. William Woodgate

to the Port Admiral (Rowley), he forebore to speak of himself; and it was not until the Admiral questioned him as to what officer had conducted the attack that the truth became known. The Dutch Captain, who had been offered generous terms of surrender, replied with the discharge of a pistol, and was cut down by Hardinge himself.

Capt. Hardinge was voted a public funeral in St. Paul's Cathedral, and a representation of the Piedmontaise was granted as an honourable augmentation of the family arms.

(*c*)

The Rev. John Whitaker, M.A., a man of great learning, married Elizabeth, grand-daughter of the last Marquis de Rambouillet, who sacrificed his estates and went into voluntary exile in England after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. His widow died in England, having dropped her title. Their daughter married Baron Maseres, whose son, the last Baron, died in 1824, aged 93; their son, Charles (father of Elizabeth Whitaker), was born in Denmark, the Queen standing sponsor. Mrs. Whitaker died in 1814, aged 69, in Rathbone Place, at the house of Baron Maseres.

J. A. Whitaker, the eldest son, Major of the 21st Foot, fell at New Orleans in 1815. George Whitaker of Pembury, another son, married at Brisley, Norfolk, in 1811, Philadelphia Walter of Seal, daughter of William Hampson Walter.

The Walters were an old family, descended from William Walter, whose grandson James, a physician at Gloucester, married Rebecca, daughter of Sir George Hampson, Bart., M.D., and had issue William Hampson Walter.

Rebecca Walter married secondly William Austen, and had four children, of whom one was the Rev. George Austen, father of Jane Austen, the novelist. Mrs. Austen died in 1732, aged 36. Her husband was uncle of the Rev. Henry Austen, who married Mary Hooker, sister of Mrs. William Woodgate of Summerhill. The Whitakers were allied to the Streatfeilds.

conveyed a small part of this to his son as accommodation land ; so that when Summerhill was sold, a few acres of the original property was retained by (and now belongs to) the family. On this land is a magnificent beech tree, held to be the finest in West Kent.

Mrs. Stephen Woodgate and the family were continually staying at the Grove, where they frequently met the Humphrys, Mr. Humphry being Vicar of Seal. The first letter extant from this branch is an invitation, about 1812.

“ August 3rd, [1812 ?].

My dear Julia [Humphry],

The pretty little Frock of your work my Aunts brought me on Wensday. Accept my best thanks for it ; it is truly elegant, and the work was beautifully done. We go to Crowhurst next Monday, and hope on our return to see you and *another* of our Cousins, to spend a little time with us, which will give us great pleasure, when you will see how *becoming* your Frock is to our Dear little Boy, who is I assure you a very fine Fellow. Mr. & Mrs. Humphry will not I hope refuse to spare *two*, out of the *four* to us for a short time, & we can easily manage thro' the Grovites to get you here. With our united kind regards to all the party at Seal, I remain, my dear Julia, yrs affectionately

Pembury, Friday.

F: Woodgate.”

The next is a note, written in 1816 after the death of her uncle, George Hardinge, Chief Justice of the Brecon Circuit and the Queen's Attorney General.

“ My dear Friends, I send my little Boys to visit you, and by them I write a few lines to tell you that my Admirable Aunts support themselves under this sudden and heavy blow with their usual strength of mind and fortitude, but they are deeply afflicted and suffer much. They desire me to say that they shall be glad to see any of their kind friends that will walk up to see them. Adieu ; I trust dear Mr. Humphry is pretty well, tho' I am sure he has felt much for his departed friend. I remain, yours truly,

F: Woodgate.”

It is a great misfortune that, out of the half dozen letters of Mrs. Stephen Woodgate which remain, four relate solely to *deaths*. The next two letters were written respectively on the deaths of her two Aunts, but the first, alone, will suffice.

[1822]. “ My dear Fanny,

Accept my grateful thanks for your kind note of this morning. We have *all* lost one of the best and kindest of Friends, and must mutually console and comfort one another. You will feel, I am sure, great satisfaction in hearing that the surviving sister has been enabled by a good Providence to support herself with the most pious fortitude, and that her health does not appear to have suffered from her deep sorrow and affliction. She saw your Dr. good Mother a few hours after the *stunning Blow* had fallen on her, and she will tell you that she supported herself as an humble Christian ought to do. If I am pretty well, I go to the Grove on Monday & will call on you in my way. Adieu dearest Fanny, with our kindest regards to Mrs. Rose [Woodgate], Believe me, yr truly affectionate

Wednesday night.

F: Woodgate.”

Mrs. Stephen Woodgate had nine sons and two daughters, Jane and Anna. Anna died in infancy ; Jane survived several years, but died in 1833. She frequently stayed at Hastings. In 1824 Mary Anne Humphry writes of her,

“ Jane Woodgate is a general favourite. She took her first lesson in dancing yesterday, & her master expressed himself anxious for her remaining here at least six weeks, to derive advantage from his instruction.”

This opinion of the amiable character of Jane was, by Mrs. Humphry, extended to the other children : she says, in 1826.



OLD OAK STAIRCASE, Pembury Hall.

"My friend Mrs. Caroline talks of going to Pembury on Thursday to carry home the children. I never saw more engaging young people ; under the tuition of Mrs. Hardinge, you may guide them with a straw. They dined with me one day, & I was quite amused with their little cheerful society. I hope Sir Richard [Hardinge] will find all the comfort he expects from his union with Miss Wolf ; I hear she is sensible & amiable, & calculated to make him a cheerful companion & attentive Nurse."

Three deaths at this time followed in rapid succession. First, in April, 1826, that of Caroline Hardinge, the aunt, who left her niece most handsomely provided for in her will—so much so indeed that Sir Richard Hardinge, who died in November, considered it unnecessary to name her in his. In January, 1827, Stephen's aunt, Rose Woodgate, died, leaving him a small legacy. Mrs. Stephen Woodgate's letter on the occasion was as follows :—

"My dear Fanny,

Your sad intelligence reached us this morning, and Mr. Woodgate and I both felt shocked at hearing of the death of his dear Father's eldest Sister, full of years and patient resignation. It is not for the departed that we *ought* to mourn, but my dear friend I feel most anxious to hear of your dear Mother, and I am sure you will be kind enough to let me hear of her when your letters from Seal arrive, for I *feel* that you will not leave Tonbridge till after the last sad duties are performed. Alas, my Friend, Death has made heavy havoc with your family and ours—the blooming innocent has been equally snatched away with the aged friends, & we have only to bow with resignation and pray that further inflictions may not add to our sorrows. I entreated Mr. Woodgate to let me answer your note, and with our united kind regards, I am always yrs affectionately

F: Woodgate.

Pembury Vicarage, Janry 2nd, 1827."

The funeral was at Tonbridge.

"My dear Cousin,

I shall have a melancholy Pleasure in attending the Funeral of my late Aunt on Tuesday next, and will be with you at the Hour appointed. With our united sincere regards, believe me, yours very faithfully

Vicarage, Pembury,

Janry 5th, 1827."

Stephn. Woodgate.

There is one more letter from Mrs. Woodgate.

"Pembury Vicarage, May 9th, 1828.

My dear Lady Ashburnham,

I grieve to say that our hopes of visiting you and Sir William are for the present unavoidably postponed from a sad accident that has befallen our carriage Horse, viz. no less than the Groom, 10 days ago, in riding him threw him down, & unfortunately has broken both his knees, which accident will disable him *for ever* as a saddle Horse for Stephen, and for the present prevents our driving him in the Phaeton. You see therefore, my dear Friend, that our intended pleasure of visiting Broomham is not possible for some time to come. Our poor Friends are removed from Hastings to the Wells. Mr. Woodgate finds Lord Henry much alter'd since he saw him at Hastings, and I thought *her* looking sadly. I take the liberty of enclosing to Sir William a card for the poor little Boy we mentioned to him, and of soliciting his kind vote & good offices in his behalf. I lament I must make you pay double postage. With much love & regard I remain, my dear Lady Ashburnham, yrs affectionately

F: Woodgate.

Excellent accounts of Caroline."

After her Aunt's death, Caroline Hardinge (Mrs. Woodgate's sister), fixed her headquarters at Pembury Vicarage ; there are several letters from her of this period.

One, on June 11th, 1827 :—

“ . . . My sister is just going to new furnish her drawing rooms. Morant from Bond Street is their man of business. We spent last Friday at Greatness, a sorrowful visit. You must by this time have heard that they are going to sell their property. They say Free Trade has ruined them. What a loss it will be to your Mother & sisters ; ”

And again, on June 19th, 1827 :—

“ We have three great boys now at home, who keep us alive. Mr. & Mrs. W. Austen are come to Pembury for 3 months. He is in extreme ill health, & unable to mix with the neighbourhood. This air is recommended as being particularly healthy, & he is very near his own family, who appear very anxious & affectionate in their frequent calls upon him. Don't you grieve to hear the Nouailles are obliged to sell Greatness ? Alas, alas, how that neighbourhood changes.”

One of these letters, written in March, 1827, describes her “ late jaunt to Town, to attend my god Child's Christening. My visit did me no harm, tho' I was not sorry to get back to earlier hours & shorter flights of stairs. The party was a very brilliant one—Emily ; Lady Londonderry, the other Sponsor, very handsomely attired, with a good sprinkling of diamonds ; Lady C. Wood ; Captain Wood and his Sister ; Lord Camden, his son and daughter ; the Marquess of Lothian ; Lord Castle-reagh ; Sir C. and Lady Hardinge ; Major Bradford & yr humble Servant ; in the evening Sir James & the beautiful Lady Graeme (late Fanny Callender). All the ladies in white, except Lady Londonderry & Lady Emily, the latter in a Brussels lace dress over Pink satin. I assure you I was very smart in a bobbin net worked by Fanny in large sprigs over white Sattin, with my garnets. The dinner and wines splendid. I staid a week. . . . Yesterday we dined very agreeably with our neighbours the Willis's. I see a great deal of my brother's family at Tonbridge, which is a great happiness to me.”

“ Pembury, Novr 1st, 1827.

My dear Julia, . . . My sister and the family are quite bonnie. Our circle has been lately encreased by the arrival and domestication of Mr. Palmer, a young man of property who is to act a short time as curate. He is very agreeable and quite an acquisition. I will deliver your message to Lady Hardinge when I next see her. Mr. & Mrs. Nouaille & Anne spent the day with us yesterday, & appeared in excellent spirits. I hope their affairs are mending. . . . C. Hardinge.”

In August, 1828, she describes her brother Richard's wedding ; it was very pretty, the bridegroom in his Horse Artillery uniform cut a great dash, and the pair started off to town in a carriage drawn by four grey horses. She goes on to mention her own engagement to Capt. Palliser, R.H.A., who had been staying at Pembury for the last ten days. They had, provisionally, fixed on Woolwich as their future home, where her brother Richard and Caroline Callendar, his wife, were to reside. Mr. Palliser had obtained his appointment the previous year. So much interest had been made for it that the Duke of Wellington had been heard to say, “ It would be sufficient to gain the Bishoprick of Durham.”

* She writes about this time regretting the necessity of declining an invitation to stay at Seal, before she settled down at Pembury for the winter. She had already declined invitations at Wildernesse and St. Clere, and could not very well accept that of the Humphrys.

It appears that Jane Woodgate's health gradually declined, though not without rallies from time to time. Miss Humphry writes, in November, 1832,

“ Mrs. Nouaille was so kind to visit my Mother yesterday immediately after her return home. She called at Bounds to see Mrs. Stephen Woodgate and Jane, who are still there, and you will be happy to hear Jane is so much better that every



THE REV. REGINALD STEPHEN SHAW WOODGATE of Pembury Hall.

hope is entertained of her recovery. Lady Hardinge shewed Mrs. Nouaille over the house, which is ornamented with a number of family portraits. The one she most admired was an excellent likeness of Sir Henry, invested with all his orders."

In April, 1833, Caroline Palliser (late Hardinge), writes from Keyham Point, Devonport :—

"My poor niece Jane Woodgate I fear is in a precarious state, which I was not aware of until three weeks ago, and I am very anxious to hear from her poor Mother how she bears up under such a trying scene."

On 3rd December, 1833, Miss Humphry writes,

"The accounts of poor Jane Woodgate are most distressing and it is thought she cannot survive many days. On Sunday week I was surprised to see Sir Charles and Lady Hardinge at Seal Church. They were passing two nights at Wilderness to meet Sir Henry and Lady Emily; the following morning they all called upon us. Lady Hardinge is as interesting and pleasing as ever. Neither of the brothers have heard lately from our friend Mrs. Palliser; the last accounts were favourable of herself and her youthful progeny. Mrs. Allnutt and Maria called upon us last week; they concluded their visit in the vicinity of London by passing two days most agreeably with Capt'n and Mrs. Hardinge at Woolwich. They went over the arsenal, and saw everything calculated to interest strangers."

P.S. I have just received a note from Anne Nouaille communicating the decease of poor Jane Woodgate. She breathed her last yesterday morning at nine o'clock, without a struggle or a groan, and perfectly collected to the last. Mrs. Nouaille, accompanied by her son Peter, is gone to Pembury to comfort and sympathize with the afflicted parents, who are as composed as can be expected ;"

and again, on 16th December,

"We learn Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Woodgate support their afflicting loss with the utmost resignation. In the hopeless state their lamented daughter had long languished, they must feel thankful her sufferings were not further protracted. Her complaint was ascertained to be an internal abscess. Their son Frederick ten days ago received his commission for the Army, and is shortly to join his regiment stationed at Kilkenny. It arrived at a fortunate moment, to afford a little change to the thoughts of his afflicted parents."

The Rev. Stephen Woodgate (*d*) died at Pembury on 29th January, 1844, and was buried at Pembury. He was succeeded by his eldest son, the Rev. George Stephen Woodgate, born in 1810, educated at Charterhouse and University College, Oxford, where he took a third class in Classics. His first curacy was at Caversham in Surrey, then at Headcorn; after which he was for five years Curate to the Rev. William Dodsworth, Vicar of Christ Church, Albany Street. This was the first church in which Dr. Pusey preached after his suspension. In the summer of 1843 he came to Pembury in consequence of his father's failing health, and remained with him until his death, when he succeeded to the Vicarage. In 1846 he married Miss Louisa Shaw (now living), daughter of Capt. Charles Shaw, R.N., and sister of the late Sir John Shaw of Kenward, Bart.

During his incumbency a large and handsome Church was erected in the upper part of the parish of Pembury, mainly through his exertions; and the ancient lower Church was completely restored. He died in 1871, and a beautiful stained glass

(*d*) The following story is related. It might have been included under the heading of "Ali Baba," in the *New Arabian Nights*. Early in Stephen Woodgate's incumbency a travelling merchant arrived at Pembury with some packhorses carrying what he represented as very valuable merchandize. Not caring to entrust it to the servants at the Inn, where he intended to put up for the night, he requested and obtained permission to leave his baskets in the Vicarage hall. In the middle of the night, Stephen Woodgate was awakened by a rustling downstairs; and beheld, to his amazement, a man emerge from one of the packs, and proceed to undo another to release his confederate. Stephen seized him; and after a vigorous struggle, with the assistance of the footman, the robber was secured. Needless to say, the mysterious merchant never appeared to claim his wares.

window has been placed in the East end of the old Church, to the memory of him and of his father. His eldest son, the Rev. R. S. S. Woodgate, was subsequently for several years Vicar of Pembury.

Mrs. Stephen Woodgate removed from Pembury to London, where she died on 2nd May, 1854, in Hurd Street, Manchester Square, two months after the death of her son William Hardinge Woodgate, Major 86th Regiment.

Writing of the event, a year later (January, 1855), Mrs. Palliser says :—

“ I was greatly afflicted at the death of my only sister. Since her widowhood & residence in London, we had seen so very much of each other that her loss was very sad to me. Her sons that lived with her have taken a small house looking into Hyde Park, and are keeping house together.”

The letter is dated from the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.

There had been left to Stephen Woodgate by his father an extensive property in Pembury including the next presentation and perpetual advowson of the Vicarage of Pembury, the Rectory impropriate and the great tithes, Pellet Gate Farm, Knights Place, Gimble Grove (e), and other lands in the several parishes of Pembury, Tonbridge Tudeley and Capel, and a substantial sum in cash. This property had been entailed ; but as soon as George Woodgate attained twenty-one, he executed a disentailing instrument to enable large slices of the land to be sold off to meet the extravagances of one of his brothers, who had incurred very heavy debts ; nor was it much satisfaction to know that similar debts were subsequently contracted. Lord Hardinge, the trustee, at last stepped in and refused to sanction the sale of further property, otherwise all might have gone.

Charles Henry Woodgate, the third son, educated at Charterhouse, obtained a cadetship in India through the influence of his uncle Lord Hardinge. His subsequent career was as follows :—

1832. 10th October. Writership.

1833. 27th January. Assistant to the Principal Collector and Magistrate of North Arcot.

1835. 5th December. Acting Head Assistant to the Collector and Magistrate of Trichinopoli.

1836. 26th January. Ditto, Coimbatore.

1838. 6th February. Head Assistant to the Collector and Magistrate of Trichinopoli.

1844. Proceeded on Furlough to England. Married Miss Alicia Shaw, eldest sister of Mrs. George Woodgate.

1847. 20th January. Sailed for India.

1848. Subordinate Judge at Madura.

1855. Civil and Sessions Judge, Tinnevely.

1856. 30th October. Died on board the Alina.

“ In memory of

Charles Henry Woodgate

3rd son of the late Revd. Stephen Woodgate

Vicar of this Parish

Died at sea off Aden 30th October 1836.

Also of

Charles Shaw Campbell Woodgate

Eldest and dearly beloved son

of the above Charles Henry Woodgate

And Alice Frances his wife

died at Palamcottah in Southern India

after two days illness, 20th December 1855

aged 3 years and 3 months.”

(e) The house known as Gimble Grove, and occupied by Mrs. George Woodgate, was built by her after her husband's death. In some instances, as in the will of William Woodgate, it is spelt Grimble ; Hasted speaks of “ Kynwell-grove-kopys.” The correct spelling appears to be Gimble, or Gimbel.



The late MRS. WOODGATE, of Pembury Hall.

and sister of the
 George's, Hanover
 fault.

Optimus Woodgate, War Office, b. 12 July 1822; unmar. 22 May 1891; bur. at Pembury.	Octavius Woodgate, d. infant; bur. at Pembury. Herbert Woodgate, d. infant 10 Oct. 1820; bur. at Pembury.	Anna Maria, d. infant; bur. at Pembury. Frederick Woodgate, Capt., d. 24 June 1851; bur. at Pembury.
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dau. of Thomas Henry Barton of Ire, Ireland, by Charlotte his wife, Lord Plunket; mar. 1881.	Florence Grace, mar., 1871, William Hill, Civil Service, Nova Scotia.	Marion Frederika Doug- las, mar., 1871, Robie Uniacke.
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Henry Plunket Woodgate, Eylon.	Sibyl Grace Charlotte.	Mildred Violet.
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Angela Mary, mar. 1893.	Bernard E. Dalison, M.B., son of Rev. J. B. Dalison of Upwell and Harriet Shaw his wife.	George Hard- inge Wood- gate, U.S.A.	Margaret, dau. of R. B. Ronald of Tunbridge Wells; mar. 1892. Issue.	Alice Jane, d. 8 Feb. 1903; bur. at Pem- bury.	Cicely Blanche, mar. 1894.	Rev. George Louis Lach- lan, Vicar of Tudely, Kent.
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Dalison.	Cecil George.	Monica Mary.	Vere William Woodgate.	Verena Cicely.
	Hugh Robert Lachlan.	Henrietta Harry.	Noel Shaw Lachlan.	Cynthia Margaret.



The late MRS. WOODGATE, of Pembury Hall.

Woodgate of Pembury.

SHEET No. VII.

Rev. Stephen Woodgate, M.A., Patron and Vicar of Pembury, Kent, youngest son of William Woodgate of Summerhill; b. 21 Sep., bap. privately at Tonbridge Nov. 1780; d. 29 Jan. 1844.

Frances, elder dau. of the Rev. Henry Hardinge, Rector of Stanhope, and sister of the first Viscount Hardinge, Governor General of India; mar. at St. George's, Hanover Square, 11 April 1809; d. 2 May 1854; bur. at Pembury in the family vault.

Rev. George Stephen Woodgate, M.A., Vicar of Pembury, b. 22 June 1810; d. 14 April 1871. Louisa Margaret, youngest surviving dau. of Capt. Charles Shaw, R.N., sister of Sir John C. K. Shaw of Keoward, Bart., now of Gimble Grove, Pembury; mar. at Speldhurst, Kent, 22 Sep. 1846. William Hardinge Woodgate, Major 86th Regiment, d. unmar. 28 Feb. 1854; bur. at Pembury. Charles Henry Woodgate, M.C.S., Civil and Sessions Judge at Tinnavelly, d. at sea 30 Oct. 1858. Alicia Frances Shaw, mar. at Speldhurst 22 Sep. 1846; d. at St. Leonards Feb. 1905. Arthur Woodgate, b. 13 Dec. 1813; d. 20 June 1860; bur. at Pembury. Grace Marion, youngest dau. of Hugh Kennedy of Cuitra, co. Down; b. 17 Oct. 1819; mar. 18 July 1844; d. 9 May 1900; bur. at Pembury. Frances Jane, d. unmar.; bur. at Pembury 7 Dec. 1833, aged 19. Francis John Woodgate, War Office, d. unmar. 30 Dec. 1865. Septimus Woodgate, War Office, b. 12 July 1822; d. unmar. 22 May 1891; bur. at Pembury. Octavius Woodgate, d. infant; bur. at Pembury. Ando Maris, d. infant; bur. at Pembury. Frederick Woodgate, Capt., d. 24 June 1851; bur. at Pembury. Herbert Woodgate, d. infant 10 Oct. 1820; bur. at Pembury.

Charles Shaw Campbell Woodgate, d. at Palamcottah, South India, 20 Dec. 1855, aged 3 years and 3 months.

Gertrude Frances, d. 3 Dec. 1879.

Sollery Grey.

Constance Helena, of St. Leonards.

Hardinge Briscoe Woodgate, d. unmar. 6 March 1900.

Charlotte Alice Nina, of St. Leonards.

Arthur George Kennedy Woodgate, Inspector of Factories, 68 South Eaton Place, S.W.

Sylvia, dau. of Thomas Henry Burton of the Grove, Ireland, by Charlotte his wife, dau. of Lord Plunket; mar. 1881.

Florence Grace, mar. 1871, William Hill, Civil Service, Nova Scotia.

Marion Frederika Douglas, mar. 1871, Robie Unisacke.

Mervyn.

Georgiana Russell Grey, d.

Gertrude Lilian Grey, mar. at St. Leonards, May 1904, Ernest Swarder, M.B., of Folkestone, Kent.

Henry Plunket Woodgate, Ceylon.

Sibyl Grace Charlotte.

Mildred Violet.

Mary Manda. Rev. Reginald Stephen Shaw Woodgate of Pembury, for several years Vicar of Pembury. Lydia Elizabeth, dau. of Colonel William Moller of Broadlands, M.P. for Stafford; mar. 1880; d. Nov. 1909. Agnes, mar. Nov. 1873. Arthur William Calender, eldest son of William Romayne Calender of Mauldeth Hall, M.P. for Manchester. Mary Grace, mar. Aug. 1875. Thomas Plantagenet Bigg-Wither, F.R.G.S., 2nd son of the Rev. Lovelace Bigg-Wither of Tangier Park, Hants. Frances, mar. d. 16 March 1903. William H. Vipond Barry of Dublin. Georgiana Katherine, Isabel Mary. Anne Evelyn, mar. 1884; d. 1908. Arthur S. Tabor of Cheam, eldest son of Robert Tabor of Hawkwell, Pembury. Ethel Margaret, mar. 1909, Rev. Carleton Rushleigh of Horton Kirby. Beatrice. Angela Mary, mar. 1893. Bernard E. Dalison, M.B., son of Rev. J. B. Dalison of Upwell and Harriet Shaw his wife. George Hardinge Woodgate, U.S.A. Margaret, dau. of R. R. Ronald of Tuckbridge Wells; mar. 1892. Issue. Alice Jane, d. 8 Feb. 1903; bur. at Pembury. Cicely Blanche, mar. 1894. Rev. George Louis Lachlan, Vicar of Tudeley, Kent.

Elizabeth Frances Shaw, mar. 29 Aug. 1907, Beaumont Comerford, M.D., Chester Terrace, S.W. Rosamond Stephanie Meller. Mildred Agnes Romayne. Cecil Margaret. Evelyn Grace. Geoffrey Arthur Calender. Esme De Brun. Dorothy Grace. Guy Plantagenet Bigg-Wither. Harold Stephen Bigg-Wither. Ralph Woodgate Bigg-Wither. Sidney, Claude Robert Higgens of Much Hadham. Joao Robert Tabor. Rebecca M. Tabor. Mary. John Dalison. Cecil George. Hugh Robert Lachlan. Monica Mary. Henrietta Harry. Vere William Woodgate. Noel Shaw Lachlan. Verena Cicely. Cynthia Margaret.

1907-1908. The first year of the new century was a year of great change and progress. The world was still recovering from the effects of the war, and many countries were struggling to rebuild their economies. However, there were also significant advances in science and technology, which would shape the future of the world.

179	For the said State of Virginia, the said	For the said State of Virginia, the said
180	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,
181	State of Virginia, the said	State of Virginia, the said
182	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,
183	State of Virginia, the said	State of Virginia, the said
184	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,
185	State of Virginia, the said	State of Virginia, the said
186	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,
187	State of Virginia, the said	State of Virginia, the said
188	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,
189	State of Virginia, the said	State of Virginia, the said
190	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,
191	State of Virginia, the said	State of Virginia, the said
192	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,
193	State of Virginia, the said	State of Virginia, the said
194	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,
195	State of Virginia, the said	State of Virginia, the said
196	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,
197	State of Virginia, the said	State of Virginia, the said
198	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,
199	State of Virginia, the said	State of Virginia, the said
200	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,	John Smith, Governor of the Colony of Virginia,

[illegible]

Arthur, the fourth son, obtained an appointment in the Civil Service, and rose (we believe) to be Post Master General at Halifax, Nova Scotia. There is a stone to his memory at Pembury :—

“In loving memory of Arthur, son of the Revd. Stephen Woodgate, Vicar of Pembury, Kent, born in 1813, died June 20th 1899; also of Grace Woodgate his wife, born October 17th 1819, died May 9th 1900.”

Francis John, the sixth son, after taking his degree at Oriel, Oxford, in 1842, entered the War Office; and Septimus, another son, held a Government appointment at Somerset House until compelled by ill health to relinquish it: both were bachelors. The former died in Albion Street, Hyde Park, in 1865; the latter is commemorated by a stone at Pembury.

“In loving memory of Septimus, son of the Revd. Stephen Woodgate, Vicar of Pembury, Kent, and of Frances his wife, born July 12th 1822, died May 22nd 1891.”

The three next children died in infancy; and the youngest, Capt. Frederick Woodgate, died in London in 1851.

It appears that all the family, except Charles, Arthur, and Septimus, were buried in the family vault at Pembury, together with the remains of the Woodgates of Spring Grove and some of the Summerhill family.

* * *

Since this was written and just before going to press, the death of Mrs. Reginald Woodgate of Pembury Hall has occurred. She died on 14th November, 1909, and was buried on 19th November in the family vault under the chancel at Pembury. The photograph which accompanies this work was given as a memorial of her by her husband, who has also given the remaining views of Pembury.

CHAPTER XVIII.

WOODGATES OF HAWKHURST AND HORSHAM.

PART I.

The Woodgates of Hawkhurst seem to have branched off from the family at Chidingstone and Penshurst. Peter Woodgate, a cadet of the family (a son, probably, of Walter Woodgate of Penshurst and Julian his wife (see p. 11) ; settled down at Hawkhurst and founded a very flourishing branch at Hensill (a) which for many generations was the principal family seat at Hawkhurst.

In 1543 Peter and Thomas Woodgate were residing in the Cranbrook Hundred, and were assessed at £10 and £30 respectively. In 1549 Thomas dropped out, and Peter was assessed at £40. In 1571 the assessment was £20. These figures are not very significant except to show the *relative* wealth of those assessed ; and of the sixty names or thereabouts in 1571, in the Great Barnfield Hundred, the richest man was Richard Boys, £25 ; after him came Peter Woodgate with £20, then Henry Parker with £15. Some way down the list is Peter's eldest son, Edmund, with £6, and William Austen with £8, with Hammonds, Chittendens, Mercers, Hensells, Austens, Springetts, and others.

Peter Woodgate was a Clothier or Cloth Worker, an industry carried on extensively in the Cranbrook neighbourhood. So important was the clothier vote that on election days the candidate who had their support was certain of being returned. Kentish grey—the colour of the Kentish broadcloth—is still the county colour, and the livery colour of many families whose ancestors were Clothiers. The facings of the Kentish militia were of the same hue.

During the 16th century, forty-six Acts were passed by Parliament to regulate the industry, which in 1568 was turning out 12,000 broadcloths a year. The Act of 5 and 6 Edward VI declared that every broadcloth, when thoroughly wet, should be 30 yards long, and in breadth 7 quarters at the least ; and when well scoured, thicked, milled, and dried should weigh not less than 84 lbs.

A petition to Queen Elizabeth informs us that “ out of every cloth there groweth to the poor for their relief and living, as to spinners, weavers and thickers, 50/- ; and that the making of a broadcloth consisteth not in the travail of one or two persons, but in a number, as of 30 or 40 persons, men women and children, at the least.”

The Chittendens of Lilsden, Hawkhurst, and the Austens, were famous Clothiers ; and the ancestor of the Duke of Leeds (Sir Edward Osborne), was a Clothworker and Lord Mayor of London.

(a) Hensill is one of the ancient Denes of Kent ; it was held of the Manor of Eastry, and gave the name to a family, of whom one of the earliest members was Simon Henselle of Hawkhurst, living temp. Hen. V. The wills of John and Margaret Heansill of Hawkhurst, of 1464 and 1473 respectively, are at Somerset House. The original estate, in Peter Woodgate's time, comprised the house, two messuages, and two hundred acres of meadow and woodland abutting upon the Queen's High Street East ; a common pasture called Hawkhurst Moor, South ; lands respectively of the heirs of James Dunk, Sir Richard Oakes, Knt., and Thomas Mercer, West ; of the heirs of George Standen, and of Edmund Duke, and the heirs of Thomas Afford, West and North ; lands of Thomas Evenden, Robert Grant, heirs of Nicholas Springett, highway, and Stephen Beeching North and East ; lands of Nicholas Goodman and Robert Jurden, North and East ; and lands of Thomas Syseley, North.

A hurried and distant view, in the fading light of a November afternoon, would suggest that the old house has been demolished and replaced by a very pretty building of white stone. The situation is beautiful.

Peter Woodgate was constantly engaged in making judicious additions to his property. By way of rounding off Hensill, he bought of Robert Jurden 11a. of land in 1560; of Thomas Syseley and wife and George Syseley in 1566, a house and 12a.; of Robert Jurden and Johanna his wife in 1564, a house and 22a. ; to say nothing of other purchases elsewhere, of which we have records.

In 1572, when Queen Elizabeth mustered her forces in consequence of the massacres in France on St. Bartholomew's Day, Peter Woodgate was Captain of the Hundred of Great Barnfield.

Peter Woodgate, by will dated 5th April, 1581, gave to the poor of Hawkhurst, 40/- ; to son Edmund, an annuity of £10 payable out of a messuage and 90a. at Ticehurst and Etchingham called Luckers Down, and 30a. adjoining called Brooke's Drove, purchased of Richard Abroke ; and subject thereto, the same lands to son John the Elder in tail. John the Elder also had Hensill in tail and the bulk of its contents, Glonedes, and other lands. Thomas was to have the goods, implements, teynterd and household stuff at Delmynden. John the Younger and Edward were each to have £20 as soon as they were 16, and £300 each on 27th December, 1594, and 27th December, 1595, respectively, to be paid in the South porch of Hawkhurst Church between the hours of eight of the clock in the forenoon and three in the afternoon. These two sums were charged on Hensill ; and if either died, the survivor was to take the whole. Henry was to have the £50 " which is in Mr. Loftied his maister's hands," and land in Slaugham in tail, with remainder in default of issue to Peter's grandson Edward, son of Thomas, Woodgate. Son Peter was to have £5 at 16, and an annuity of £4 out of certain lands in Hawkhurst ; which lands, and other lands next Gunster's Dene in Salehurst, land called Southafelden in Hawkhurst and Tysehurst, and a field of 8a. between Northhale and Denbourne in Hawkhurst (purchased of Syseley's widow), and a legacy of £5 on attaining 16, were left to Arthur in tail. Daughter Cara Bates, 40/- to buy a ring, the same to Thomas son of John Woodgate of Hawkhurst and John son of Thomas Woodgate. To every servant, 5/- and wages. Grand-daughter Margaret Austen, £5 on marriage. Wife Catherine, all leaseholds, certain bonds and residue of personalty, also the life estate in Rowlands in Hawkhurst, purchased of Thomas Mercer, and after her death to John the elder ; also a life estate in lands and tenements called Syseley's in Hawkhurst, purchased of Thomas Syseley, and in other lands, which after her death were to go to Selwyn in tail, with remainder over to Arthur in tail. Wife executrix ; and if she remarry, to execute a bond in £1,000, with two sureties, for the due execution of the will. William Austen of Goudhurst and Arthur Stizze of Hawkhurst, sons in law, Trustees.

Witnesses : Richard Hertop, Richard Boys, William Playfere, Andrew Beeching and others (b).

(b) Peter Woodgate of Hensill, Hawkhurst, Lord of the Manor of Delmynden, Capt of Great Barnfield Hundred, had issue by Joan his wife

1. Joan, bu. 1562.

2. Edmund, b. circa 1551, m. Micholl. (marriage settlement dated 30th June, 1577).

3. Thomas of Delmynden, Hawkhurst, of Battle, 1581, of Withiam, 1588, of Hartfield, 1609 (will), m. Beatrice dau. of Thomas Elrynton of Hoggaston by Beatrice his wife, dau. of Sir Edward Bray of Shere ; he left issue

(a) Edward, mentioned in his grandfather's will.

(b) Edmund.

(c) Robert.

(d) Joanna, m. Thomas Allen of London and Finchley.

(e) Thomas, of Rotherfield in 1611.

(f) Sarah, b. about 1595; licence to be married at Tunstall 18th January, 1621 to George Juxon of Chart next Sutton and of Tunstall, Kent (related to Richard Juxon of Canterbury) ; had issue Dorothy, and Sarah m. Thomas Barker of Chart next Sutton.

4. a dau. m. Arthur Stizze.

On Peter's death, an Inquisition was held before Richard Leatheford, Esq.,

5. John the Elder of Lamberhurst, m. Joan sister of John Wimshurst of Goudhurst. Bu. in church at Lamberhurst. Will pr. at London 16th August, 1598; mentions "cousin John Woodgate of Brencley;" left issue
 - (a) John
 - (b) Thomas.
 - (c) William.
 - (d) Edward.
 - (e) Mary, under 21 in 1598.
 - (f) Joan, under 21 in 1598
 - (g) Agnes, under 21 in 1598.
6. Elizabeth m. October, 1560, William Austen of Goudhurst.
Joan Woodgate was bu. December, 1560, whereupon Peter Woodgate m. 2nd in February, 1561, Catherine, dau. of — Giles, and had issue,
 7. Cara, m. — Bates.
 8. John, bapt. 13th October, 1564, d. young.
 9. Henry; had issue Mary, living in 1590.
 10. Rev. Peter Woodgate, bapt. 21st December, 1565, B.A. 1578, Chaplain of New College, Oxford, bu. in Queen's College Chapel, 4th November, 1590, unm.
 11. John, bapt. 11th June, 1567, d. young.
 12. *John the Younger*, of whom presently.
 13. Edward, bapt. December, 1570, left issue
 - (a) Elizabeth, bapt. September, 1599.
 - (b) William, bapt. December, 1602.
 14. Arthur of Horsham (see p. 485).
 15. Selwyn of Hastings. Administration granted 15th January, 1590, s.p.
 16. A daughter m. — Culpepper.
- Peter Woodgate d. in 1580; will pr. at London 3rd May, 1581. His widow married in February, 1581, John Lumford of Hastings, Jurat; he was bu. at St. Clements, Hastings, 24th June, 1617, she 9th November, 1590, leaving issue.
Peter Woodgate was succeeded by
John Woodgate the Younger of Hensill, bapt. December, 1568, bu. 11th November, 1633; Left issue by Alice his wife
 1. Thomas of Hensill, bapt. October, 1595, will pr. at London 16th October, 1656, unm.
 2. *Daniel of Hawkhurst*, Citizen and Scrivener of London, of whom presently.
 3. Cicely, m. 4th March, 1620, Nathaniel Chittenden of Hawkhurst and had issue Nathaniel; m. 2nd Thomas Russell.
 4. Peter.
 5. John, bapt. 7th July, 1633, m.
 6. Edward, died 1638-54, leaving issue by Sarah his wife,
 - (a) John.
 - (b) Edward of London.
 - (c) Thomas of Burwash.
 - (d) Steven.
 - (e) Daniel.
 7. Samuel of Hawkhurst, bapt. 1600, will pr. at London, 14th October, 1658, unm.
 8. Joseph of St. Christopher, London, d. unm. 1638. Nuncupative will dated 27th May, pr. 5th June, 1638.
 9. William.
 10. Elizabeth, m. 18th July, 1640, at St. Clements, Hastings, Rev. Martin Fist of Winchelsea, afterwards of Sellington; had (among other issue) Mary.
 11. Jane, bapt. 2nd October, 1625, m. Thomas Peachey, formerly of West Dean and then of Forington, Sussex.
 12. Arabella, bapt. 23rd September, 1627.
 13. Katherine, bapt. 3rd January, 1629, m. Joseph Boorman of Hawkhurst, and had issue Katherine and Joseph.
 14. Mary, m. John David of Beckley, and had issue Margaret, Thomas, and Mary.
Daniel Woodgate of Hawkhurst, Citizen and Scrivener of London, m. Mary, dau. of Robert Grosvenor, Citizen and Draper of London; his will pr. at London 13th January, 1680, hers 4th December, 1697 (she was bu. 18th October, 1697, aged 71). He left issue
 1. *Thomas*, of whom presently.
 2. Daniel, bu. 31st January, 1665.
 3. Robert, b. 2nd May, bapt. 25th May, 1665.
 4. Sarah, b. 20th July, bapt. 5th August, 1667, bu. 21st September, 1669.
 5. Frances, living 1697.
 6. Peter of Hawkhurst b. 2nd October, bapt. 25th October, 1672, m. Deborah — bu. 22nd April, 1698, administration granted 4th May, 1698.
 7. Elizabeth, b. 20th December, 1673, bapt. 9th January, 1674.
- Thomas of Hensill*, b. 1602, m. Anne dau. of the Rev. Stephen Munn, Rector of Woodchurch. He was bu. 19th January, 1715 (died 14th January), aged 61, she 19th December, 1740, aged 88, leaving issue
 1. Daniel, b. 28th December, 1683, bapt. 15th January, 1684, d. young.
 2. Anne, b. 16th January, bapt. 12th February, 1685.

Escheator for the County, and a jury, to ascertain what lands Peter held of the King in capite. The return mentioned the Manor of Lewens and 80a. in Hailsham; 16a. Woodland called North Heath in Hailsham, parcel of the Manor of Michelham; Stone Croft in Hailsham; 16a. in Hailsham (part of 23a., of which 4a. was held of Sir Thomas Sackville, Knt., Lord Burghersh, of his Manor of Wyllingdon in free socage, and 3a. of Elizabeth Hurst, widow); two messuages and 140a. in Etchingham and Ticehurst called Luckers Downe and Brookes, held of Sir Roger Lewkenor, Knt., as of his manor of Bodyham in free socage; a barn and 2a. in Ticehurst; and 26a. in Etchingham and Salehurst. The ancient rents, which were almost nominal, amounted together to £14 10s., that of the Manor of Lewens being £6 13s. 4d.

Edmund, at his father's death, was the eldest son, being then 29 years of age and upwards ("et amplius").

Many of the children had been handsomely provided for in their father's lifetime. Thus, in 1559, Peter Woodgate seems to have settled on his daughter, Elizabeth Austen, a messuage and 133a. in Goudhurst, of which 20a. was planted with valuable timber. (See Pedes Finium, Michaelmas Term, 1 Eliz.) Again, by an Indenture of Feoffment dated 30th June, 1577, property was conveyed to Richard Boys of Hawkhurst, Gent., William Playfere of Hawkhurst, Gent., and Andrew Beeching of Hawkhurst, Clothier, in trust for Edmund Woodgate and Micholl his wife. In 1608 an Edmund Woodgate of Maresfield married by licence Margery Pankhurst of Fletching, widow. From the terms of the will of Arthur Woodgate (p. 486) it seems likely that this Edmund was the son of Peter.

Catherine Woodgate, the widow, within a year re-married John Lumford or Lunsford of the town and port of Hastings, a jurat and a man of some note. The family trace an unbroken descent from the time of Edward the Confessor, and their chief abode was a large old house at East Hoathley, called Wights, where Sir John Lumford died in 1618. Catherine Lumford seems to have died in 1590, having had one daughter, Grace. Her Lumford stepchildren were Robert, John, and a daughter Bennett. The name of Giles is not uncommon in Sussex; their arms are, "Per pale, azure and gules, a griffin passant or." It is not known who Catherine Giles was; she might have been the daughter of Richard Giles of Cranbrook, or have come from Hailsham.

Edmund appears to have had no male issue; John the Elder settled at Lamberhurst, and conveyed away Hensill to his brother John the Younger, of whom presently. Arthur was ancestor of the Woodgates of Horsham and Lewes whose history appears hereafter. Edward was churchwarden in 1598, when the Registers were first started, and the former entries transcribed; he purchased a book for thirty-six shillings, and signs at the foot of each page.

3. Sarah, b. 30th August, bapt. 15th September, 1686, d. 14th January, bu. 21st January, 1742.

4. Thomas, b. 6th April, bapt. 1st May, 1687.

5. Cordelia, bapt. 29th October, 1689, m. Thomas Hunt, of Goudhurst (marriage licence dated 27th April, 1719).

6. James of Hawkhurst, bapt. 1st November, 1691, bu. 18th April, 1728, leaving issue by his wife,

(a) William, bapt. 20th October, 1722.

(b) Mary, bapt. 16th November, 1724.

(c) Rebecca, bapt. 23rd July, 1727.

7. *Peter.*

Peter Woodgate of Hawkhurst bapt. 28th June, 1695, m. Christian —. He d. 30th January bu. 3rd February, 1757, sbe d. 22nd January, 1790, aged 91, leaving issue

1. Thomas, bapt. 6th February, 1745.

2. Walter, bapt. 17th February, 1737, bu. 27th June, 1740.

3. Anne, bapt. 8th February, 1736, m. 8th August, 1764, Mercer son of Samuel Durrant of Hawkhurst, and d. 20th December, 1811, leaving issue

(a) Samuel Woodgate Durrant of Hazleden, d. 8th June, 1834, aged 68, and

(b-h) William, Anne, Thomas, Barbara, Mary, Elizabeth, and John.

The Rev. Peter Woodgate, one of the younger sons, matriculated at Queen's College, Oxford, in March, 1585-6, took his degree two years later, and became Chaplain of New College. He died at the early age of twenty-six, and was buried in the College Chapel, where, upon the North wall, near the door leading to the tower, was this inscription :—

“ Heus, Peripatetice,
Conde tibi tumulum, nec fide haeredis amori
Epitaphiumque compara.
Mortuus est, nec erint libris haec verba ducentis,
Woodgatus hic sepultus est.”

Camden says: “ In the cloister of New College in Oxford, this following is written with a coal for one Woodgate, who bequeathed £200 to one who would not bestow a plate for his memorial. . . . ”

Gutch says: “ He, being born to an estate, gave in his will to his executor Mr. Robert Smith of Bucknell in this county an estate valued at above £200 and to his daughter Grace Smith £100, besides legacies. He also left sums of money to be given to poor people, and to one Thomas Hudson of this College (New) he gave £6 8 6 to buy him books. Also the like sum to Benjamin Heydon, a junior Fellow, afterwards Schoolmaster of Winchester, Doctor of Divinity and Dean of Wells, which was to be employed for the same purpose. Legacies also he bequeathed to several people, of which some amounted to £20, some to £10, others also to £5, £3, £2, £1, and 10s. All which money so bequeathed not procuring from the executors or any of the legatees a little memorial to be put over his grave, Mr. John Hoskeyns Senior, a most celebrated wit of this College, was pleased to write the aforesaid epitaph on the wall near the grave, with a coal; a copy of which epitaph, being afterwards by him given to his most worthy friend, the learned Camden, he did as most worthy of memory and fit for this purpose insert it among his epitaphs in his book entitled “ Remains,” published in 1604.

The said inscription, being afterwards worn out, was revived with red ocher, and at length painted in red and black letters, by the care and charge of the worthy philosopher and theologist Mr. Robert Grebby of Lincolnshire, then one of the chaplains of this college, who dying in the year 1654 was buried near to it.”

By the will of the Rev. Peter Woodgate, dated 31st October, and proved at London, 27th November, 1590, he gives various small legacies (as mentioned) to his Mother; brother John the Elder, and John's child; John the Younger; Edward and Arthur; children of brother Thomas; Mary daughter of Henry Woodgate (£20); sister Grace Lumford; sister Culpepper; Dr. Alworthe “ in consideration of his paines ”; Robert son of George Limpe; Christopher Bud, Fellow of St. Mary's College; poor of Hawkhurst; poor of Hallowell and Calstreet in Oxford; the prisoners at Easter; and the prisoners in the town gaol, Borardo by name. Robert Smith executor; Mr. Edmund Pope and Mr. Watson to be overseers and each have £4 for a ring. Witnessed by James Culpepper. The Warden of New College was Martin Culpepper, Doctor of Physic, Dean of Chichester (1577), and Archdeacon of Berks (1588).

Thomas, second son of Peter Woodgate of Hawkhurst, is of some interest to the Woodgates of Summerhill. That eminent and learned antiquary, the Rev. Thomas Streatfeild, deduces a somewhat remarkable ancestry for the family from Thomas Woodgate, whom he represents as having married Beatrice Elrington in 1577. His son Edward was, he states, the father of William Woodgate of Stonewall, who married and had issue in 1603. Thus he allows twenty-six years for the birth of two generations! Streatfeild's theory is not merely wrong but impossible. It is seldom, however, that he is guilty of error; and it is refreshing to feel that, in matters of this kind, even the highest authorities are liable to mistake. Aliquando dormit Homerus.

Thomas Woodgate married Beatrice daughter of Thomas Elrington of Hoggaston, otherwise Hoxton, descended from Sir John Elrington of Shoreditch, Knt., a man of great consequence. He was Treasurer of the Household, Keeper of the King's Wardrobe, Constable of Windsor Castle, Clerk of the Hanaper in Chancery, and so forth, and married Margaret daughter and coheir of Thomas Etchingham of Etchingham. His son Edward belonged to the Privy Chamber; and his grandson Simon was chief butler to Edward IV. Thomas, son of Simon, married Beatrice daughter of Sir Edward Bray the Elder of Shere, Master of the Ordinance and leader of the troops who attacked Wyatt at Charing Cross. Beatrice Elrington's father died in 1566; by his will, he appointed Sir William Cordell the Master of Rolls, and Sir James Dyer, Chief Justice of the Commons Pleas, his Trustees. His eldest son, Edward, married Margaret daughter of Sir John Spencer of Althorpe, and widow of Sir Giles Allington, and had issue.

The marriage settlement, dated 24th June, 1577, was made between Peter Woodgate of Hawkhurst, Gent., and Catherine his wife of the one part, and Edward Elrington of Willesden, Esq., and Thomas Fortescue of London, Gent., of the other part; whereby a life estate in Delmynden, Webbs, Dyers, and other lands in Hawkhurst, and also lands in Hailsham, Pevensey and elsewhere, was reserved to Peter; and subject thereto, the fee simple was conveyed to Elrington and Fortescue, in trust for Thomas Woodgate and Beatrice Elrington and the survivor of them and the heirs of their body (c) We are indebted for the following account of the Manor of Delmynden to the late Mr. Thomas Frewen of Cold Overton.

"There appear to have been twelve Denes, which were held of the Royal Manor of Wye, seven of which were situate in the parish of Hawkhurst. (Kilburne, p. 130). One of those was the manor and capital messuage called Delmynden, which was in ancient times the patrimony of an eminent family of that name who flourished here about the reign of Edward III. The portraiture of Delmynden and his wife, both kneeling, was formerly to be seen in stained glass in the Northaisle of Hawkhurst Church till the rebellion in 1641, which together with the principal inhabitants of the place represented in the stained windows in the same posture could not escape the destructive principles of the times.

In the 13th of Henry VIII (1522), May 8, Richard Adams of Fletching in Sussex was possessed of this Manor, leasing it to one Weever; from him it descended to Stephen Adams of Alborne in Sussex, Esq., who on 21 April, 3 Edward VI (1549), being then of Fletching, sold the Hall and Manor of Delmynden to Peter Woodgate of Hawkhurst, Gent."

On 23rd April, 30 Elizabeth, 1598, Thomas Woodgate, being then of Withiam, Sussex, and Beatrice his wife, conveyed Delmynden, Webbs, and Dyers to George Scott of Hawkhurst for £1,500. It remained for some time with the Scott family, and was eventually purchased in 1746 by Thomas Mercer, from whom it passed to the Frewens, who still are (unless they have recently parted with it), the worthy possessors of this estate. Delmonden Manor, as it is now called, is a fine old house yet standing.

The will of Thomas Elrington (d) of Dean Court, Kent, brother of Beatrice, dated 1602, mentions a debt of £250 owing to his nephew Edward Woodgate; he mentions Thomas Allen, "servant of Sir John Roper," Mr. Boys of Cliffords Inn, and a number of legatees; and by it he gives the residue of his property to his sister Beatrice Woodgate. He gives directions for his burial in Savoy Church, as near to his brother as possible, with a grave and four escutcheons of arms like his brother's, the latter

(c) The fine levied in Hilary Term, 21 Eliz. describes Delmynden as consisting of the Manor and its appurtenances, 2 messuages, 4 barns, 3 gardens, 7 orchards, 50a. arable land, 23a. meadow, 50a. pasture, and 17a. of wood, with the appurtenances, in Hawkhurst.

(d) The arms of Elrington are "Argent, on a fess dancetté three plates, between six cranes sable."

with the difference of a younger brother ; also an inscription in brass " Many deceitfull people have prevailed against us ; Lett them rest in peace, O Lord, and be mercifull unto us." He had contracted for the sale of his manor of Dean Court in Kent to Sir John Roper.

Sir John Roper belonged to the same family as the celebrated Margaret Roper, daughter of Sir Thomas More. Her daughter Elizabeth married Sir Edward Bray the younger, Beatrice Woodgate's uncle ; his first wife was an Elrington.

In November, 1581, Edmund and Thomas Woodgate, both described as of Battle, " Gent," enter into a bond for £1,000. In 1598 Thomas is of Withiam. In September, 1609, when he makes a nuncupative will, he is of Hartfield. He gives all his personal estate to his wife ; " and I will," he says, " that out of the last my childrens portions shall be satisfied, as I have told you how, and my debts all be satisfied ; and if my sons Edmund or Robert demand of you anything, let them be answered only how many hundred pounds they have which their father has given them these four years. . . . And the said Thomas Woodgate then further said to his wife that he appointed her to be Executrix to execute and perform these things so willed by him, and that for her ease and aid in that behalf he did join as an assistant or helper unto her his brother John Woodgate, who said he was an honest man at liberty, and is and always hath been a kind friend and loving brother both to me and you. And that the said Thomas Woodgate, speaking to his wife, said that before God he blessed you and their children, And I give God thanks that he hath permitted me to speak. These or the like words in effect and substance were shewed and spoken by the said Thomas Woodgate."

This will was proved by Beatrice, the widow, at Lewes on 21st December, 1609 ; two years later letters of administration to her estate were taken out by her son Thomas Woodgate of Rotherfield. She then had been living at Rotherfield.

John Woodgate the Younger in 1631 was obliged to pay £11 to avoid being knighted ! In these days, people pay any sum to obtain it ! He seems to have acquired Hensill of his brother John the elder. There is an old MS. pedigree at the British Museum of his descendants, constructed mainly by the aid of his will, but we cannot find the will itself. He was succeeded in Hensill by his son Thomas, who on 1st February, 1654 conveyed it to Angley Fowler, Esq., Robert Fowle, Gent., and John Horsmonden, Gent, upon various trusts, the place devolving eventually on his nephew Thomas Woodgate.

Thomas the Elder, by will dated 13th June, 1654, gave a number of legacies. To the poor of Hawkhurst, £3 ; brother Samuel, £5 annuity ; sister Cicely Russell, £10 ; nephew Nathaniel Chittenden, £50 ; sister Jane Peachy, £40 ; Katherine Boorman, £40 ; and £10 each to her two children ; niece Mary Fist, daughter of Rev. Martin Fist, £100 at 18 ; sister Mary David, £5 ; nephew Thos. David £10 and niece Mary David, £40, at 21 ; Edward, Stephen and Daniel, sons of brother Edward deceased, £20 each at 24 ; John son of Edward, £50 ; Thomas son of Edward, £100, and £10 annuity ; Elizabeth daughter of Peter Hinton of Newenden, £10 at 21 ; Sarah wife of Thomas Barker, £5 ; Dorothy daughter of George Jackson, deceased, £5 ; brother Daniel the residuary legatee and sole executor. Fowler, Fowle and Horsemonden, trustees. Witnessed by William and Samuel Boys, Edward Godwin and Florice Cooke. Proved by Daniel.

Samuel Woodgate, by will dated 25th September, 1657, gave to Mary and Margaret David £20 and a small chest of linen ; sister Cicely Russell of Boorn £5 ; nephew Thomas Woodgate of Burwash £5 ; Elizabeth daughter of Peter Hinton £5 ; nephew Edward Woodgate of London £5 ; the Boormans, £40 ; Dorothy Juxon, cozen, 20/- as a token of remembrance ; residue to the Peachys, Thomas Peachy sole executor. Witnesses : Sarah Barber, Dorothy Juxon, Thomas Barber. Proved by Thomas Peachy.

Daniel Woodgate was a Citizen and Scrivener of London. By his will, dated 27th May, 1680, and prepared by George Townrow of St. Mary, Alderman of London, he directed his debts to be paid, and the residue of his personalty divided into three parts "according to the lawdable usage and custome of the City of London, one such part to my loving wife Mary, one to my four loving children, Robert, Peter, Frances and Elizabeth Woodgate equally at 21 (I having already paid unto sonne Thomas Woodgate his part and portion) at 21 years of age, and as to the remaining third as followeth;" i.e. to poor of Hawkhurst, where Daniel dwelt, £3; son Robert, £150 at 22; son Peter, £150 at 22; daughter Frances, £600, and £100 left her by her late grandmother; daughter Elizabeth, £500. Residue of the third to wife Mary. Wife Mary (besides the jointure secured by the marriage settlement), a farm in Hawkhurst and lands called the Stileman for life, with remainder to son Thomas. Thomas to have a farm at Highgate, Hawkhurst; two other farms and 10a. of land called Darbothrue near Stone Stile lands, with the orchard barn and 18a. thereto belonging. Peter to have a farm of 45a. at Sandhurst purchased of Robert Chagstock, in tail male, with remainders over to Thomas and Robert. Robert to have a farm of 60a. in Sandhurst in tail with remainders over. Wife Mary and son Thomas, executors and guardians.

Witnessed by Samuel Grosvenor, Nicholas Lane, and George Townrow Noy.

Mary Woodgate of Hawkhurst widow, by will dated 16th August, 1683, gave £5 for funeral expenses; son Thomas, £5; daughter Frances, twelve pence; William Lanes, son of brother William Lanes, Citizen and Haberdasher of London, £5; and Elizabeth daughter of William Lanes, £5; son Robert, £250 at 21; son Peter £250 at 21; Robert, Peter and Elizabeth, all movable goods at 21. Lands in Hawkhurst, lately purchased of son Thomas, to daughter Elizabeth at 21. Brother William Lanes and son Thomas, executors and residuary legatees.

She was buried at Hawkhurst, near her husband. There was in Kilburn's time a flat stone in the Church to commemorate Daniel Woodgate; but it is now gone.

This is the last of the Hawkhurst Wills in our possession. Thomas, of Hensill, eldest son of Daniel, married (e) Ann daughter of the Rev. Stephen Munn, Rector of Woodchurch. Her father, it seems, was a son of Samuel, and nephew of John Munn of Woodchurch. The arms of the family are "Per chevron, flory counter flory sable and or, in chief three bezants; in base a tower of the first." One of the family, Capt. Thomas Munn, was Member for Hastings; his son, the Rev. Vere Munn, was for 22 years Vicar of Bodiam and died in 1736.

Thomas Woodgate lies buried just outside the south porch, where there is a large altar tombstone to his memory. The inscription is much defaced by time and exposure; and much of it is now illegible. Such of it as can be deciphered reads as follows:—

"Here lieth the body of Thomas Woodgate Gent. of Hensill in this parish, who departed this life the 14th of January Anno Domini 1714 aged 61..... daughter of Stephen Munn, Rector of Woodchurch in this County..... Dawchett..... Peter....."

Near it are two smaller stones, inscribed as follows:—

"To the memory of Peter Woodgate Gent. who died Jan. 30th 1757 aged 62 years. Christian Woodgate died January 22nd 1790 aged 91 years. Left issue by Christian his wife one daughter Ann; also near this place lieth 2 of their sons, Walter and Thomas;
and:—

"To the memory of Sarah daughter of Thomas Woodgate Gent. by Ann his wife who died Jan. the 14th 1742 aged 36 years."

(e) Marriage Licence issued from Canterbury. Thomas Woodgate of Hawkhurst Gent., Bachelor, about 29, and Anne Munn of Woodchurch, Spinster, about 24."

In Lady Jennings' work, *A Kentish Country House*, which is an account of the Jennings of Hall House, Hawkhurst, is a letter from Margaret Saxby to her cousin Nathaniel Collier of December, 1666; "I will get Mr. Steve Woodgate to bye me a side saddle, I want one exceedingly and can be without one no longer, and next wick or when yee please send me a bil and I wil set my hand to yt."

Steve Woodgate was son of Edward, nephew of Daniel. We are informed that there are still Woodgates at Hawkhurst, of humble rank indeed, but generally esteemed by their neighbours. We apprehend that they are descended, not from the Hensill family, but from one of those numerous persons named in the registers who cannot be fitted into the pedigree. Subscribed is a list (f).

(f) *Extracts from Hawkhurst Parish Registers.*

Baptisms.—

1561. May 18.	Elizabeth, daughter of John Woodgate.
November 25.	Thomas, son of Richard Woodgate.
1563. May 28.	— daughter of Richard Woodgate.
1564. January 17.	Thomas, son of John Woodgate.
June 10.	Joan, daughter of George Woodgate.
1565. April 23.	John, son of Richard Woodgate.
1566. January 12.	Elinor (?) daughter of John Woodgate.
May	John, son of Richard Woodgate.
October.	George, son of George Woodgate.
1567. December.	Nicholas, son of John Woodgate.
1568. February.	Myroll, daughter of Richard Woodgate.
1569. February.	Ann, daughter of George Woodgate.
1574. January.	Robert, son of George Woodgate.
1578. February.	Mercie, daughter of George Woodgate.
1583. March.	Agnes, daughter of Thomas Woodgate.
1590. December.	Peter, son of George Woodgate.
1591. January.	Peter, son of William Woodgate.
April.	Mary, daughter of Thomas Woodgate.
1593. December 23.	Martha, daughter of Thomas Woodgate.
1595. December.	Sarah, daughter of Thomas Woodgate.
1598. August.	John, son of Thomas Woodgate.
1599. October.	Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Woodgate.
1601. January.	Mary, daughter of Thomas Woodgate.
1602. May.	Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Woodgate.
1603. October.	Joan, daughter of Thomas Woodgate.
1605. July.	Edmund (?) son of Thomas Woodgate.
1606. September.	— daughter of Thomas Woodgate.
1608. January.	Margaret, daughter of Thomas Woodgate.
1635. June 7.	Thomas, son of John Woodgate and Dorothea his wife.
1725. July 4.	Thomas, son of John and Ann Woodgate.
1795. May 24.	William, son of William and Mary Woodgate.

as far as 1810.

Marriages.

1563. February.	George Woodgate and Jane (<i>blank</i>).
1571. June.	William Casson and Sarah Woodgate.
1590. October.	Thomas Woodgate and Mary Sampson.
1592. April.	Richard Bullock and Alice Woodgate.
1598. August.	Thomas Woodgate and Joan Ser....(?).
1632. April 9.	Thomas Nake and Elizabeth Woodgate.
1634. June 1.	Thomas Austen and Katherine Woodgate.
1681. May 26.	Thomas Chittenden, Clothier, and Joan Woodgate.
1765. December 25.	John Woodgate and Eleanor Buckland, both of Hawkhurst, by Banns.
	(John Woodgate writes good signature; his wife a marksman).
1770. January 3.	Henry Stevenson of Hastings and Eleanor Woodgate of this parish.
	To 1795.

Burials.

1560. November.	John Woodgate.
1563. March 23.	William, young servant to John Woodgate.
1565. May 14.	John, son of Richard Woodgate.
December 31.	Joan, daughter of George Woodgate.
1575. January.	Richard Woodgate.
February.	— Woddgate.

It only remains to add that the arms of Woodgate of Hawkhurst, as given by Hasted, are "On a chevron cotised three trefoils slipped, between three squirrels sejant." Streatfeild, who had the advantage of consulting the arms on monuments now gone, states that Hasted mistook the outlines of the chevron for cotises, and that the charges were not trefoils but acorns. The crest was simply an acorn.

PART II.

Arthur Woodgate of Horsham (in 1600 living at Withiam) was a younger son of Peter Woodgate of Hawkhurst. His first wife was Joan Reynolds of Goudhurst of whom we have no particulars. His second wife was a Ravenscroft (a).

Burials—continued.

1579.	June.	Anne, daughter of John Woodgate.
	September.	Elizabeth Woodgate.
1598.		Jane (Joane) wife of George Woodgate.
1603.	January.	George Woodgate.
1640.	April 9.	Thomas Woodgate.
1734.	September 16.	John Woodgate. Labourer.
1808.	May 2.	Ann Woodgate, widow.
1825.	March 21.	Sarah Woodgate, aged 3 months.
1827.	November 12.	Ann Woodgate, Four Wents (?) aged 35.
1835.	July 31.	George Woodgate, of London, aged 27.
	November 28.	George Woodgate, of Hawkhurst, aged 60.
1838.	June 7.	Elizabeth Woodgate, infant,
		To 1852.

(a) The pedigree of this branch is as follows:—

Arthur Woodgate of Horsham, younger son of Peter Woodgate of Hawkhurst, bapt. June, 1574, m. 1st at Goudhurst, 16th November, 1597. Joan Reynolds (sister of Joseph) of Goudhurst; and 2nd Elizabeth dau. of Peter Ravenscroft of Horsham, Gentleman of the Horse to the Duke of Norfolk. He died in 1646 (will dated 31st January, 1641, pr. at London 1st June, 1646), leaving issue

1. Arthur of Slaugham, eldest son, d. April, 1669 (will dated 6th August, 1667), leaving issue

(a) George, d. unm., administration granted 4th August, 1658.

(b) Various daughters died young.

(c) Elizabeth, sole heiress, b. 1635, m. 1657 William Ford of Cowfold, and had issue Elizabeth.

2. Richard, administration granted to widow Mary.

3. Henry, of whom presently.

4. John of Horsham, Attorney-at-law, m. at Horsham in 1670 Barbara Merryan.

5. Elizabeth, m. John Rowland of Crawley. Licence dated 28th January, 1635, to be at Slaugham.

6. Judith.

7. Mihill.

8. Jane, m. John Foye.

Henry Woodgate, of Horsham in 1670, of Binsted, Hants, in 1673, left issue

1. John Woodgate of the Middle Temple, b. 1652, matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, 1670; entered at the Temple, 1673; m. at All Saints, Lewes, on 10th April, 1679, Dorothy Lane of Southover, and had issue Elizabeth, born about 1686. He died 13th February, 1693 (will dated 20th June, 1692).

2. a son, m. Deborah, dau. of — (her sister Henrietta m. Rev. Joseph Munday). Administration of Deborah Woodgate granted 7th October, 1695.

3. A son (name unknown).

The latter had issue

1. George, of whom presently, and

2. John Woodgate of St. Thomas on the Cliff, Lewes, who had issue Thomas, of the same place (whose will was dated 6th March, 1773, and proved at London, by his father, 7th July, 1777).

George Woodgate of Lewes, m. the dau. of the Rev. Thomas Davies, Vicar of Glynde from 1750-1789, and had issue

1. Robert, of whom presently.

2. Mary, m. 27th January, 1770, John Thompson Bull of Spring Gardens, London.

3. A daughter, m. 5th December, 1791, Henry Harben of Lewes, second son of Mr. Harben, Banker.

4. A daughter, m. Alderman Coomber of Norwich.

5. George Woodgate of Downham, Essex, who had issue

George Woodgate of Bloomfield Hall, Essex, m. Susannah Malden and had issue

(i) Jane.

(ii) Julia, m. E. A. Bentall.

Her father, Peter son of George Ravenscroft, was Gentleman of the Horse to the Duke of Norfolk; he married Elizabeth daughter of John Hall of Horsham, and heiress to her only brother John Hall. The other children of Peter Ravenscroft were, George of Bretton in Co. Flint; a daughter, who married Richard Mihill of Horsham; and John, of Horsham, bapt. 1571, married to Judith daughter of George Ferne, by whom he had issue (1) Jane wife of Henry Budger of Ashurst; (?) Elizabeth, married firstly William Richbell, and secondly Daniel Briggs of London, (3) Anne, married to Thomas Petley, son of Petley of Filson, Shoreham; (4) Mary married Nicholas Sheppard, attorney at law; and (5) Hall Ravenscroft, married to Elizabeth daughter of John Stapley of Hixestede, Twyneham, Sussex, and had issue Elizabeth.

The arms of Ravenscroft are "A chevron between three Ravens heads erased;" and they quarter the arms of Holland, Skevington, Brickhill and Swettenham. Crest: On a chapeau gules, lined ermine, a lion passant guardant.

Arthur Woodgate occupied a position of some prominence. He was one of those, in the time of Charles I, liable to what is now the privilege, but was then the burden, of knighthood, as being the owner of lands worth £40 per annum; but compounded, like his brother John the younger, by the payment of a fine.

By will, dated 31st January, 1641, being sick in body, he devised to Arthur, the eldest son, the house and lands at Slaugham known as Strutt's farm for life, then to George, eldest son of Arthur the younger, in tail, subject to £100 to be paid to each of George's sisters. To son Richard, all lands and premises in Worth; son Henry, house in Horsham occupied by testator, and another house near thereto, and a shop, cellar and chambers occupied by Matthew Napper; son John, house and cottage in Horsham; daughter Judith, £3 13s. 4d. at 21, given her by her uncle Richard Mihill long since deceased; poor of Horsham, 20/-; subject to a number of small legacies to daughters Elizabeth Rowland and Jane Foye and son Mihill Woodgate, the residue to wife Elizabeth, sole executrix. Cozen Hall Ravenscroft and brother in law Edward Pankhurst (see p. 479) to be trustees or overseers, and have 20/- each.

Arthur, the eldest son, during the first two years after his father's death, dwelt in a farm at Southwater, in Horsham; after which he took possession of Strutt's Farm, Slaugham, worth £60 a year. Strutt's was held of the Manor of Slaugham, and after his death passed under the entail to Elizabeth, his only surviving child. In August, 1667, he gave up housekeeping and sold all his oxen, stock and effects to his son in law; part of the money was paid in cash, the balance secured by bond to his grandchild.

By his will, dated 6th August, 1667, he gave his grand-daughter Elizabeth Ford a house in Horsham and a house in Catsfield; and appointed his kinsmen Nicholas and Thomas Sheppard overseers. Proved at Lewes.

Richard, another son of Arthur Woodgate the elder, died intestate, leaving a widow and a considerable fortune, to which she took out administration. John, another son, was an attorney. Henry, another son, resided for some years at Horsham and then migrated to Binsted, Hants.

Robert Woodgate of Stock House, Billericay, Essex, and of St. Vedast, London, m. at St. Vedast's, 30th November, 1776, Ann Aylett, sister of Sir William Aylett, of Stifford, Essex, and had issue

1. *John*, of whom presently.
2. *Henry*, a Capt. in His Majesty's Army.
3. *A daughter m. Mr. Walker of the Bank of England.*
4. *A daughter, m. Rev. Mr. Bishop of Suffolk.*
5. *A daughter, m. Mr. Stephenson of Blackheath.*

John Woodgate, Capt. in the Guards, m. 15th June, 1805, at St. Pancras, Lady Honoria Elizabeth Hester Lambert, eldest daughter of 7th Earl of Cavan. He d. at Southampton in 1806, leaving issue

Caroline Alicia Elizabeth Drummond Woodgate, m. 23rd June, 1824 at Tome, Devonshire, George Spiller and had issue.

Lady Honoria Woodgate m. 2ndly at All Saints, Southampton, in April, 1809, George Frederick Harvey, Capt. 18th Light Dragoons, and died 30th March, 1856.

John, son of Henry, was sent to Trinity College, Oxford, and passed on thence to the Middle Temple, of which he became a student. (See *Foster's Inns of Court Register*.) He married one of the Lane's of Southover (a family represented by the Lanes of Westmeston) and died in 1693, leaving a widow and a daughter Elizabeth, and then living at "Wheatley Stile," Binsted, Hants. By will dated 20th June, 1693, (being then in good health), he directed that he should be buried in the chancel of the church of Binsted near his mother. He gave to his daughter his capital message, "Wheatley Stile," and the lands thereto belonging in Binsted and Kingsley occupied by Christopher Smith, after the death of his father. Also the books in his study and elsewhere. Meadow land in Kingsley called Gunhame to be sold, the mortgage of £200 to William Gill of Headley, Southampton, Gent., to be paid off, and the balance used for debts and legacies. To sister Munday, £20. Cousin John Butler, Gent, £10. Poor of Binsted, 20/- . Cousin Thomas Rowland and brother in law Joseph Munday Overseers.

The widow took out letters of administration with will annexed at Winchester. In the inventory of goods we note the mention of the books and desk in the study ; the kitchen ; six turkey work chairs, oval table and looking glass, three pictures and three maps in the hall ; looking glass, beds, andirons, table &c in parlour chamber ; bed, six chairs, chest of drawers in hall chamber ; also dressing box, sideboards, plate, bonds, &c. The executors were Henry Christmas of Stubb, Binsted, Gent. ; William Burlie of Well, Long Sutton, Southampton, Gent ; John Cheyney, Gent. ; and Bernard Birmingham of Binsted, Gent.

His nephew John Woodgate of Lewes was living in 1777 at the date of his son's death. The latter, by will dated 6th March, 1773, in the event of his leaving issue, gave his wife Mary an annuity of £120, and the income of the residue (including the rents of two houses) to be applied in maintenance of children ; and the capital to the children at 21. If no issue, wife to have £1,000 and an annuity of £40 ; residue to father absolutely, the sole executor.

We know but little of George Woodgate of Lewes. He married a Miss Davies (*b*), daughter of the Vicar of Glynde. The latter was the friend of Clio Rickman, who has been described as a "poetical scrap-manufacturer ;" he duly celebrated his departed friend in verse which we can very easily refrain from quoting.

Robert, the eldest son, in 1776 married Miss Aylett at St. Vedast, London ; William Blake, J. Thompson Bull and Anne Barnes sign the registers.

His son, John Woodgate, Captain in the Guards, married Lady Honoria Lambert, daughter of Lieutenant-General the Earl of Cavan. Lady Honoria was distinguished for her great beauty and accomplishments, and was described, by one who had known her from her infancy, as "the sweetest woman she had ever met with." Captain Woodgate was wounded in Egypt, after which his health remained in a bad state ; but his death, which took place at Southampton in 1806, was caused by the rupture of a blood vessel.

Lady Honoria Woodgate remarried in 1809 G. F. Harvey, Capt. 11th Hussars. Capt. Harvey agreed to place £900 a year at her disposal, but the match was opposed by Lord Cavan. It took place, however, and Harvey was for some time aide-de-camp to his lordship, until he could obtain some other appointment. The marriage was not a happy one. There was one daughter by the first marriage, who married George Spiller ; we believe Col. Spiller, now living, is one of the children of this union, and a grandson of Capt. John Woodgate.

The arms borne by this family, as we are informed by their descendants the Bentalls, were the same as those used by the Summerhill family, except that the crest was "a dexter arm, armed, embowed at the elbow, holding a dagger by the blade." (This crest, substituting a tilt-spear for a dagger, was used by John Woodgate of Biddenden, Kent, in 1701). The crest : *Esse quam videri*.

(*b*) From *Gentleman's Magazine*, "Mrs. Woodgate, formerly of Lewes, died 15th January, 1843, aged 91, at Camberwell Grove." Is it possible that this was the widow of George Woodgate?

CHAPTER XIX.

WOODGATES OF BRENCHLEY AND HEVER.

PART I.

At present, our materials are insufficient for the earlier history of these Woodgates; we can only state that it is our decided opinion that John Woodgate, sen., of Brenchley was a son of Edward Woodgate of Penshurst and Alice Rivers his wife; and a nephew of Peter Woodgate of Hensill (Hawkhurst). Peter Woodgate's son, John the elder of Lamberhurst, refers by will to his "cousin" John Woodgate of Brenchley (a).

John Woodgate, jun., by will dated 30th March, 1632, appoints "Fortune Woodgate of Penshurst" (first cousin) trustee. He gives a number of small legacies to daughter Frances Potter, son Thomas, and others, and "my silver cruse and my deske with locke to whomsoever shall move me when I shall end my days." To son John, the mansion, garden, well and lands where he then dwelt.

(a) *John Woodgate, sen., of Brenchley, son of Edward Woodgate of Penshurst, and Alice Rivers his wife (see sheet No. 1), died 1587-91, leaving issue*

John Woodgate of the Crook, Brenchley, will proved 1633, left issue

1. Thomas of Pembury, will pr. 1760, left issue by Helen his wife

(a) A daughter, m. Edward Mereer.

(b) Elizabeth. m. at Tonbridge, June 1667, Renten Jeffrey, and had issue Thomas.

2. Frances, m. Potter, and had issue.

3. *Edward*, of whom presently.

4. *John* of the Crook, will pr. 1653, left issue by Joan his wife

(a) John, administration 1651, left issue Hester and Rachel.

(b) Edward.

(e) Judith, m. Josias Colvill.

(c) Thomas.

(f) Elizabeth.

(d) Richard.

(g) Walter, left issue, John.

(h) Stephen of the Crook, founded Woodgate's Charity by will pr. 1673; left issue by Mary his wife Stephen of Horsemonden (only son), Mary, and Elizabeth.

5. Walter of Brenchley, will pr. 1654, left issue by Mary his wife Mary, Hannah, and Elizabeth.

6. A daughter, m. John Coalman.

Edward Woodgate of Brenchley, will dated and pr. 1652, left issue by Joan his wife (living in 1672).

1. *William*, of whom presently.

3. Frances.

2. Edward.

4. John, under 21 in 1652.

William of Brenchley, bu. in the South Chancel of Brenchley Church, will pr. 1683, left issue by Mary his wife.

1. William of St. Bride's, London, m. 1st Margaret... and had issue; m. 2nd Elizabeth (will pr. 1726), and had issue, William and Margaret.

2. Samuel, M.D.

3. Elizabeth.

4. John of St. Michael Crooked Lane, Brewer; left issue Mary.

5. *Daniel*.

Daniel Woodgate of Stonepit, Seal, m. Sarah dau. of Richard Goodhugh of Tonbridge (High Sheriff of Kent in 1697) and of Sarah his wife the dau. of Robert Streatfeild of Chested, and Sarah his wife, dau. of William Woodgate of Stonewall. Daniel was bu. at Seal "in linen" on 26th January, 1723, leaving issue

1. Mary, m. 8th September, 1732, at St. George's, Hanover Square, Thomas Lake of Sevenoaks, Commander R.N.; he d. 1750, she 1782.

2. Sarah, m. 18th September, 1732, at St. Paul's Cathedral, William Evans of St. Martin's in the Fields.

3. Margaret, bapt. 12th September, 1710, bu. at Seal, 19th May, 1766, "in linen" unm.

4. Susanna, bapt. 10th August, 1716, m. Rev. Thomas Marshall Jordan, M.A., Rector of Barming.

5. Philadelphia, bapt. 12th April, 1713, bu. 25th May, 1720.

Son Walter, the house wherein Richard Joyner, bigge Joyner, late dwelled, and the barn, orchard and land adjoining, and the little house wherein George Goodinge dwelt, with liberty to draw water from the well given to son John. To son Edward, the residue of personalty and the residue of the real estate, including the 14a. recently bought of John Sulliard late of Brenchley Mercer deceased ; Edward sole executor.

The above John Woodgate was a merchant. He was succeeded in his business by his son Edward ; John and Walter, two other sons, were " Clothiers," that is, manufacturers of the Kentish broadcloth, like their cousins at Hawkhurst. For some account of this important local industry see p. 476. Thomas settled at Pembury.

We have the will of Thomas of Pembury dated 29th December, 1675, by which he gives to the poor of Pembury 10/- ; Son in law Mr. Renden Jeffrey (b) (? Robert), 5/- ; grandchild Thomas Jeffrey, £5 ; daughter Elizabeth, £10 ; a long list of articles disposed in various rooms such as the table and frame in parlour ; six joyned stools and six leather chaises in kitchen ; table, forms, spit, gridirons &c. in drinkhouse (cellar) ; brewhouse ; pewter, in milkhouse ; parlour chamber ; hall chamber ; and twenty pounds of hemp. Also a moiety of a messuage called Munges otherwise Muntoyes with lands and pasture, in *Chidingstone*, purchased of nephew John Woodgate. Wife Hellen. Edward Mercer, son in law, executor. Witness : Philip Champion, Thomas Cronk, Samuel Theobald. Proved 19th April, 1676 in P. O. C. by Edward Mercer (45 Bence).

Edward, by will dated 4th October, 1652, gave to son John, lands and tenements in Matfield lately purchased of John Fishenden, at 21. Daughter Frances, £100 at 21 or marriage, also all wearing apparel, linen and woollen that was her mother's. Son Edward (unmarried), annuity of £10, and movable goods to the value of £20, including one bed and the appurtenances to be chosen by him ; also " a seale gold ring which I usually weare, with the letters of mine own and his mother's names engraven thereon," and £20 in cash. Poor of Brenchley, on day of burial, 20/-. Residue to son William, the sole executor. If John die under 21, then the lands in Matfield to go to William, subject to £200 extra to Frances, and £100 to Edward. Witnessed by John Monkton, John Woodgate, and Walter Woodgate.

The will of John Woodgate his brother, dated 18th October, 1652, gave 40/- to poor of Brenchley. Wife Joan, £10 annuity, also bed and bedstead in his little chamber, 3 pairs of sheets, one joyned cheste, one trunk that was formerly hers, 1½ dozen table napkins, and all necessary stuff to keep house. 2/6 to two grandchildren (sons of John deceased). Son Edward, 5/-. Son Walter, 5/-. Son Thomas, £100. Son Richard, £100 at 21. Daughters Judith and Elizabeth, £100 each at 21. Residue to son Steven (sole executor), including wool, cloths and debts, and the house in Brenchley Town occupied by Thomas Stone, butcher, with the lands adjoining, subject to the right of the tenants of brother Walter to draw water from the well ; also a field and slaying house. Witnesses : Walter Woodgate and Mathias Peirson.

Walter Woodgate, the third brother, by will dated 10th April, 1654, directed that he should be buried at Brenchley. To eldest daughter Mary, house called the " Crook " in Brenchley, with the barn and workhouse there and 23a. Daughter Hannah, house in Brenchley occupied by himself with the barn and workhouse (the latter not quite completed) and 7a. of land ; also £100 at 21. Youngest daughter Elizabeth house late Darkins' " wherein he liveth " and 5a. Also £90 on condition of completing the purchase from John Stiver of Ashford. A number of small legacies to friends and relations including £5 to John Dunk and £10 to Mathias Peirson and Humphry Mills. Household goods to three daughters equally. Residue to Mary, she to be sole executrix. Witnesses : Matthias Peirson and Steven Woodgate.

(b) Tonbridge Registers. Renten Jeffrey de Whatlington in Sussex married Elizabeth Woodgate de Brenchley, in June, 1667. The Renten Jeffreys were a family of some note in Pembury.

The said Stephen Woodgate (called by Hasted "Capt. Stephen Woodgate"), followed his father's business at Brenchley. By his will dated 14th March 1672, he founded the Woodgate Charity at Brenchley (c), by giving a sum of 30/- to be paid yearly to the use of the poor of that parish by the churchwardens, out of the house in the town of Brenchley occupied by James Lewis and Robert French." The Charity Commissioners' Report of 1837 declared that this was paid yearly in respect of a messuage called Little Broad Oak, and distributed by the Churchwardens and Overseers. He gave his wife Mary an annuity of £40 charged upon the house called "the Crook" in which he dwelt. Daughters Mary and Elizabeth, £300 each at 21 or marriage, with benefit of survivorship. Brother Thomas £50. John, son of brother Walter, £30. Servant James Morgan, £10. Brothers Edward, Walter, Thomas and Richard, 20/- each. William Woodgate of Brenchley 20/- to buy a mourning ring, Joane Woodgate, mother, and Judith Colvill, sister, Thomas Earl, Thomas Deeprose and loving cosen John Morgan of Horsemonden Esq., 20/- each. Maid-servants Elizabeth Burgess and Elizabeth Morgan, 50/- each. Brother Richard to see to the farming and have £10 extra. Brothers Edward, Thomas, and Richard Woodgate and brother Josias Colvill and William Woodgate to be trustees, and to pay surplus rents into the hands of some honest goldsmith to be improved at interest for only son Stephen at 21. To son Stephen in tail male the lands in Brenchley and Marden. Witnesses: John Morgan, Thomas Day and George Johnson. Probate granted to Edward, Thomas, and Richard during minority of Stephen.

The will recited that he had £300 in his hands belonging to brother John deceased; John's two daughters, Hester and Rachel, were to have £150 each.

In 1703 Stephen Woodgate the son, then of Horsemonden, sold to John Hooker of West Peckham (see p. 318) all his "reversion and remainder" of a messuage, two barns, one stable, two stalls, garden, orchard, and several parcels of land containing 48a. in Brenchley in the tenure of Eastland; and for this he received, as it appears to us, the very inadequate sum of £250. This was Little Broad Oak. John Hooker of Broad Oak, ancestor of the family of that ilk, was brother of Thomas Hooker of Tonbridge.

To return however to the family of Edward Woodgate of Brenchley. His eldest son appears to have been William, who followed in his father's footsteps as a merchant.

William Woodgate issued some "tokens." From 1648 (after the death of Charles I) to 1672, the official coinage not sufficing, private persons issued coins of their own, though strictly prohibited by law. The earliest tokens were farthings; but after the Restoration, half-pence were issued. In 1672 however all private tokens were rigorously suppressed. Woodgate issued tokens of both sorts (d).

Farthing. Obverse: William Woodgat. The Grocers' Arms.

Reverse: Of Brenchley. 1654. WM. W. Farthing.

Halfpenny. Obverse: William Woodgate 1664. (In three lines, between parallel lines.)

Reverse: In Brenchley WM. W. Half penny.

One of these tokens, on which we believe the name is spelt Blenchley, is in the possession of Mr. W. B. Woodgate of the Inner Temple.

William Woodgate, by will dated 16th November, 1679, directed that he should be buried in the South Chancel of Brenchley Parish Church. Wife Mary, £20 a year out of the farm in the tenure of Nicholas Mattey of Yalding, also the interest on the bills and bonds forming his daughter's portions till the latter attained 21.

(c) The account of this charity contained in *Archæologia Cantiana* is wrong.

(d) The Streatfeilds also issued a token. Obverse: I. E. Streatfeild, Mercers. The Skinners' Arms. Reverse: In Reatherf, and, Tunbridge, I. E. S. Farthing. (I. E. = J. and E. Reatherf = Rotherhithe).

Daughters Margaret and Elizabeth £100 each " of the money owed me by Charles II, or one-third part of what is paid. Son Daniel, lease of lands in Yalding occupied by John Mirriam ; also £100 out of such money, or one-sixth at 21, also £200 in cash ; and to be placed out when 14 years old " with some person and for some calling judged meet for him by his brothers Samuel and William. Son Samuel, £200 at 21, charged on farm at Yalding ; also house and lands occupied by William Hodley bought of brother John Woodgate ; also houses occupied by William Wall and Sanders Rinnington ; also house and lands at *Penshurst* occupied by William Goodsall ; also £100 out of money due from Charles II. Son John, the farm at Yalding ; " and if he do not stay with his brother William and his mother and be ruled by them and his brother Samuel, I desire he should choose his trade and be put out apprentice when of growth and age fitting." Son William, house and lands occupied by the testator in Brencley (subject to £10 annuity to brother Edward charged thereon by his father) ; " and also if my said brother desire to live and bord with him and they do or can agree to allow his bord for this his £10 a yeere and lett him have necessary clothes of all sorts and 5s. a quarter in money ; " also all book debts, goods and effects. Poor of Brencley, 40/- and of Yalding 20/-. For funeral sermon, 20/-. Although he believes he has lost £100 at least by a lease of lands and houses from my Lady Robards, yet if his dear and loving wife desire to use and live in the house and land Mr. Fissenden used, she should have it at the same rent paid by Mrs. Fissenden during her widowhood ; if she remarry, she must pay down £100 each (extra) for Samuel, William and John. Samuel and William executors. Witnesses : John Carter, Nicholas Friggel, John Brocksted.

Samuel Woodgate, the son, took his degree at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1678 ; on 29th April, 1682 he entered on the physic line at Leyden, and was admitted an Extra Licentiate of the College 23rd September, 1686. He was created M.D. by Royal Mandate 1693. We have no certain evidence that this Samuel is identical with the Samuel mentioned in the will, but it appears to be highly probable.

Daniel Woodgate married Miss Goodhugh, the wealthy heiress of Stonepit in Seal ; but of them more hereafter.

John Woodgate chose the trade of a Brewer, and in 1737 was carrying on business at St. Michael Crooked Lane, London. By an Indenture dated 22nd September, 1737, he conveyed the Yalding farm to Edward West, Citizen and Mercer of London, for £1,050. This farm consisted of a house called Binge's or Colt's, with buildings, garden, orchard and 60 acres of land, called by the names Strodefield, Kitchenfield, Sandey's Croft, Perry Field lands, Burge's Mead, the Hope, Bromeffeld, and Frith Mead, also a croft called the Frith, abutting upon Yalding Lease on the South. This farm was conveyed to William Woodgate on 18th April, 1656, by Edward Colt and Christopher Colt his son.

William Woodgate settled in the parish of St. Bride's, London ; he married, and had several children. His second wife, Elizabeth, made her will in her husband's lifetime, dated 25th April, 1725, all in her own handwriting. She appointed her cousin Sibilla Henton executrix, and her friend John Bowes of King's Bench Walk, the Temple, trustee ; and to each of them gave 5/- to buy a ring in remembrance of her. She gave 10 - for a ring to the following : brother Johnson and wife, brother John Woodgate and wife, Mr. Richard Round and wife, aunt Alice Kenton, friend Mr. Kirby Reynes, and Mr. John Whittock and wife. She gave all wearing apparel, silk, woollen and linen to daughter Margaret. Household goods and plate equally to son and daughter ; if they die, then two-thirds to brother Johnson, and one-third to husband William Woodgate, the children by his former wife, and niece Mary daughter of John Woodgate, all six to share equally. Residue to son William and daughter Margaret ; " only as my daughter has an opportunity given by me of saveing money by her painting much greater than her brother can have dureing his apprenticeship, therefore before the division of what I leave be made, I desire my executrix

will make what my son shall have saved equal to what his sister shall have saved at the time of my decease." There were no witnesses ; but Probate of the document was granted to the executrix on 9th February, 1726-7. It seems that her husband died shortly after the will was made.

Daniel Woodgate married about 1704, Sarah, only daughter of Richard Goodhugh of Tonbridge, and Sarah Streatfeild, the daughter of Robert Streatfeild of Cransted and Sarah Woodgate, daughter of William Woodgate of Stonewall. Miss Goodhugh, otherwise Mrs. Daniel Woodgate, was therefore a second cousin of John Woodgate of Summerhill (e).

Richard Goodhugh was Sheriff of Kent in 1697. He left an only son Richard, upon whom he settled lands in Kent and Sussex as tenant in tail, with remainder over in default of issue to his daughter Sarah absolutely. Richard, the son, married about ten months before his death, and settled a considerable jointure on his wife ; but he died on 26th October, 1722, after a very severe illness which deprived him of memory, without issue. He left lands worth £1,200 a year, the bulk of which passed under his father's settlements to his sister ; and the timber on it was valued at £15,000. The lands which belonged to her brother in fee simple likewise descended to her, subject to the widow's jointure.

With this property was included the Manor of Speldhurst, and the estate in Seal, near Sevenoaks, called Stonepit. It had belonged to Sir Thomas Piers, Bart. (who died in 1680), and was conveyed to Richard Goodhugh.

Daniel Woodgate had five daughters, but no son to inherit the property. There are many beautiful portraits of this family still existing, which hung uninterruptedly at Stonepit until 1876. Among them are portraits of

Daniel Woodgate.
 Sarah Woodgate his wife.
 Mary Woodgate, daughter (Mrs. Lake).
 Capt. Lake, R.N., husband of Mary.
 Sarah Woodgate, daughter (Mrs. Evans).
 Margaret Woodgate, daughter.
 Susanna and Philadelphia, daughters.

The two youngest children were included in the same frame. The pictures measured 4ft. 1in. × 3ft. 3ins. The children were all young, we are told, when the portraits were painted, and the eldest of them not much more than twenty.

- (e) In 1676 Richard Goodhugh of Tonbridge, Bachelor, about 33, obtained a licence for marriage with Sarah Stretfeild of Chidingstone, Spinster, about 22, with her mother's consent : at St. Thomas', St. Saviour's, or St. George's, Southwark.

Seal Registers.

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| Marriage.—1721. | January 23rd. | Richard Goodhugh, Esq. and Mrs. Mary Hills. |
| Burials.— 1711. | December 31st. | Mr. John Goodhugh, buried in linen. Information given by Mr. Robert Streatfeild of Brasted. |
| | 1714. April 7th. | Richard Goodhugh, Esq., bu. in linen. Richard Adams informant. |
| | 1715. August 11th. | Robert Goodhugh, Gent. Information by Mr. Hopper. |
| | 1777. December 31st. | Stephen Round, infant. |
| | 1779. October 28th. | Richard Round, Esq., aged 54. |
| Baptisms—1725. | April 30th. | Richard, son of Mr. Richard Round. |
| | 1774. October 4th. | John William, son of Richard and Sarah Round. |

Richard, son of Richard Round and Sarah Woodgate, married Sarah daughter of Stephen Amhurst of West Farleigh, and was succeeded by

Richard Round of Stonepit, his son, who married at West Malling in April, 1803, Rimmellion, daughter of Clement Taylor of New Barnes, Malling. Clement Taylor was M.P. for Maidstone. Richard's sister died unmarried at East Malling on 7th September, 1805. His daughter

Rimmellion Round married George Carnell who died in 1871. She died in 1876 and was, we believe, the last of the family.

The eldest daughter, Mary, married by licence in 1732, at St. George's, Hanover Square, Thomas Lake of Sevenoaks, Commander R.N., and had issue. There is in the nave of Seal Church a large black stone with this inscription :—

In memory of
Thomas Lake Esq.

A Captain in the Royal Navy, who was a
faithful servant to his God, his King and
his Country, and an eminent example
in the relative duties of Son, Husband, Father and
Friend. He died the 18th of April 1750
Aged 49 years

Also

Mary his wife, daughter of Daniel Woodgate
Esqr. and Sarah his wife of Stone Pitt in this
Parish. She was endowed with sound intellect
without vanity; piety without show; charity
without ostentation; patience without inter-
-mission in many of the most trying scenes
of human life. She died Nov. 29. 1782
aged 76 and was an irreparable Loss to
her surviving children, Sarah and
Margaretta Susannah, who have caused
this small token of their duty and affection
to their parents to be placed here."

At the head of this stone are the Lake arms, "Sable, on a bend between six cross-crosslets argent, a crescent for difference;" containing, on an inescutcheon of pretence, the arms of Woodgate. Crest: a seahorse's head.

Sarah Woodgate, the next daughter, married by special Archbishop's licence, in St. Paul's Cathedral, William Evans of St. Martins in the Fields, in 1732, the same year as Mrs. Lake.

Philadelphia, another daughter, died young.

Susanna Woodgate married the Rev. Thomas Marshall Jordan, Rector of Barming, Kent, and of Iden, Sussex. He was the son of Nicholas Jordan of Maidstone, and bore for his arms "sable, an eagle displayed in bend between two cotises argent; a canton sinister or," They are buried in All Saints, Maidstone.

"Susanna Jordan,
wife of the Revd. T. M.

Jordan died Octr.
the 31st 1781 aged 66

also of

The Rev.

T. M. Jordan

Rector of Barming
in Kent

and of Iden in Sussex
died Feby. 26th

1786 aged 72 years."

The above inscriptions are to be found on stones let into the floor of the south aisle, and are rapidly being obliterated by the effects of time (/).

(/)

The Rev. T. M. Jordan and Susanna Woodgate had issue

1. Rev. John Thomas Jordan, Rector of Hickling, Notts., b. 27th January, 1749, d. s.p. 1820, m. Elizabeth Crompton, an heiress, b. 1759, d. 1826.
2. Mary, m. William Loose and had issue.
3. Elizabeth, m. Sampson Coysganne.
4. Charles, Lieut. R.N., unmarried, lost at sea 1779.

Margaret Woodgate, the remaining daughter, died unmarried. There is a white marble to her memory in Seal, engraved with a somewhat singular inscription:—

“ If vanity and ostentation have reared many sumptuous monuments to flatter the base and unworthy, sincerity and truth have reared at least this plain one to speak a small part of the virtues of the best of women, Margaret Woodgate, who was really the father of the fatherless, the defence of the widow, the friend of the poor, and a lover of all mankind. Margaret Woodgate was a Christian; her religion was in her heart, not in her mouth; and thence (as it will in such cases do) influenced all her actions. ‘Go thou and do likewise,’ so shalt thou receive a crown which fadeth not, eternal in the heavens. She died May the 12th, 1766, aged 54 years. She was the daughter of Daniel and Sarah Woodgate of Stone Pitt in this parish.”

A lozenge surmounts the tablet, emblazoned with the Woodgate arms; which, though much defaced, are of much more value than the inscription (which would have been more appropriate in commemorating the virtues of one of opposite sex). These arms appear to be “Argent, on a *chevron* cotized azure three *trefoils* slipt, between three squirrels sejant.”

If Streatfeild’s remark concerning the cotises (see p. 485) applies to these arms also, then this is exactly the same coat as that borne by the Woodgates of Hawkhurst. The significance of this is increased by the reference in a Hawkhurst will of 1597 to a Brenchley Woodgate as *cousin*. Everything points to a common descent for these two branches; and the references to Penshurst seem to link up with them the Penshurst branch.

Margaret Woodgate of Wrotham by will directed that she should be buried in the parish Church of Seal “in as private a manner as decency will admit, with only one mourning coach and hearse.” Sister Sarah Evans of Seal, widow, and niece Sarah Lake of Wrotham, spinster, to be executors and trustees. £800 in trust for sister Mary Lake of Wrotham, widow, for life, then to nieces Sarah, Mary, and Margaretta Susannah Lake equally. £800 in trust for sister Sarah Evans for life, then for Mrs. Lake and sister Susannah Jordan for life, then to their respective children. £800 to Mrs. Jordan for life, then to her children. Residue to Mrs. Evans and Sarah Lake. Proved 1766.

Daniel Woodgate died at Stone Pit in 1723. Administration was granted to his widow on 16th April, 1725. She married in the following year Mr. Richard Round, and had issue one son Richard, who succeeded his mother as heir at law, to the exclusion of the daughters. Mrs. Round died in 1758. There is a large black stone in the nave of Seal Church.

“ To the memory of
Mrs. Sarah Round, Widow
who departed this life
the 5th December 1758 aged 78.
Her holy charity and many other amiable qualities,
.....nor this poor piece of marble, make them
.....of this small memento of the dear deceased
.....and token of gratitude by her niece
Margaret Susan Bistre [?]

At the head of this slab are the Woodgate arms, with cotises and trefoil; no crest. Her grandson died without issue male (living 1821), and was succeeded by his daughter who married George Carnell and died in 1876. In 1873 Stone Pit was described as the property of Mr. J. Thornton Rogers of Riverhill.

-
5. Rev. Richard Jordan, Vicar of Hoo and Mountfield b. 22nd March, 1759, d. 21st August, 1833, m. Margaret, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Carter of Rochester, and had issue George; and Margaret, m. Rev. Dr. Carter of Mountfield, who d. 31st July, 1829.
 6. Susanna, b. 15th November, 1745, d. 22nd May, 1777, m. 1776, George Children of Ferox Hall, Tonbridge.

For further particulars of the Jordan family, see *Memoirs of J. G. Chûdren*.

PART II.

We have not had time to investigate the history of this branch, which must be dismissed in a few words (*a*).

They were descended from the old stock at Chidingstone, as may be seen from the tree, and members of the family served as Churchwarden from time to time. In 1574 the grandchildren of the first Woodgate of Hever and Margaret his wife unite in the conveyance to William Snatt and Henry Stanford of five houses, two cottages, four orchards, 60a. arable land, 15a. meadow, 40a. pasture, and 15a. wood in Edenbridge, Hever, and Cowden, together with other property; and in 1558 George Woodgate (the elder) conveys to Thomas Streatfeild (probably by way of marriage settlement) a house and 30a. arable, 2a. meadow, 20a. pasture, and 8a. woodland in Hever.

The first will, dated 30th December, 1618, is that of William Woodgate the elder, directing his burial in Hever Churchyard. To poor of Hever, 20s. Sister Alice Hasselyn, £5. Sister Anne Hooker, £20. Cousin Richard Burr of East Grinstead £10. Cousin John son of George Woodgate deceased, £20. Small legacies to Anne daughter of Edward Luck; Elizabeth Wickenden (servant to sister Stanford); John and Thomas sons of William Douglas of Hever deceased; brother Abraham Taylor; Godchildren William Prey, William Woodgate and Peter Embery; two daughters of brother John Woodgate deceased, Susan and Elizabeth, £10 each.

(*a*) Woodgate of Hever, son of John Woodgate of Chidingstone and Thomasin his wife (see sheet No. I), dead in 1540, left issue by Margaret his wife (living 1540)

1. *George*, of whom presently.
2. Reynold of Hever, living in 1540.
3. Thomas of Hever, living in 1545, left issue Joan, who m. William Stanford.
4. John; left issue Robert, and Thomas m. 20th September, 1562, Cylyan Stanford.

George Woodgate of Hever, living 1547, left issue

1. *George* of Hever, deceased in 1619, left issue by Elizabeth his wife (? a coheiress; living 1602) John of Hever, living 1619.
2. *William*, of whom presently.
3. *Gregory*.

William, deceased in 1619, left issue

1. William the elder of Hever, will pr. 1619.
2. Elizabeth.
3. Alice. m. *George* Hasselyn.
4. Anne, m. John Hooker.
5. *John*, of whom presently.

John, administration granted 17th April, 1616, left issue by Susan his wife (who remarried Stanford)

1. Susan.
2. *William*, of whom presently.
3. Elizabeth, m. 25th February, 1635, Thomas Medhurst of Hever.

William, the younger, of Hever, will pr. 1670, bu. 5th May, 1670, m. Sarah dau. of William Holmden of Edenbridge, and left issue

1. Margaret, bapt. 25th August, 1639, bu. 16th March, 1653.
2. William, bapt. 9th February, 1642, bu. 16th March, 1653.
3. Two sons, born April, 1655, bu. unbaptized 17th April, 1655.
4. Joan, bapt. 9th February, 1650, bu. 6th September, 1650.
5. Elizabeth, bapt. 1656, m. Henry Holmden.
6. Mabel, m. Henry Stanford of Edenbridge.
7. *John*, of whom presently.

John of Hever, only surviving son, bapt. 5th November, 1640, m. 20th July, 1665, Mary dau. of Thomas Birsty of Howgreen, Hever (bapt. 8th October, 1645), bu. 17th August, 1681 (described as of Edenbridge), and left issue

1. *Thomas*, of whom presently.
2. Sarah, bapt. 13th May, 1666, m. 1st July, 1686, John Streatfeild of Penshurst (born 28th January, bapt. 27th February, 1656, bu. 16th July, 1726). Left issue

Thomas of Westerham, only son, bapt. 14th July, 1667, m. 28th March, 1687, Alice Johnson, and had issue

1. Mary, m. 12th May, 1719, Geoffrey Taylor.
2. Elizabeth, m. Frederick Trimmell.
3. Ann, bapt. 20th September, 1689.
4. Robert, bapt. 20th March, 1691.
5. Thomas, bapt. 11th October, 1694, m. 25th February, 1720, Mary Saxby.
6. Alice, bapt. 11th October, 1693, m. 9th November, 1713, by licence, James Petley of Brasted (who was bu. 4th August, 1720).

Residue to young cousin William Woodgate, son of brother John deceased, he to be sole executor. Proved 1st February, 1619, by Susan Stanford (during minority of her son).

The said William, by will dated 13th April, 1670, gave trifling legacies to daughter Mabel Stanford ; to wife, all such lands as were settled upon her for jointure, for life, and afterwards to son John. Residue of personalty and all the unsettled lands to John absolutely. Witness : William King and Thomas Streatfeild. Proved 10th November, 1670, by John Woodgate.

John married Mary Birsty of Hever (see p. 501) and his daughter Sarah married John Streatfeild of Penshurst. The marriage licence was issued 25th June, 1686, describing Streatfeild as bachelor, about 28, and Sarah Woodgate as of Hever, spinster, about 20 ; with consent of her mother Mary Woodgate, widow. Alleged by William Streatfeild of Hever.

For further information of these Woodgates, see Proceedings in Chancery, 1659, Woodgate v. Brooks, Bdle 429, No. 251 ; and Woodgate v. Glover, 1652. In the latter William Woodgate of Hever, Gent., and Sarah his wife, file their petition for the proper administration of the estates of William and Martin Holmden, who had left them legacies. There is in this cause a mass of interesting material, with a list of all the furniture and effects of the Holmdens.

CHAPTER XX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

I.

It is stated, as a tradition, that the Woodgates are descended from Sir Walter Raleigh. We have not been able to find any evidence in support of the legend, though a careful search might confirm it.

II.

In 1629, land at Much Hadham, Herts, is conveyed to John Woodgate of Cliffords Inn, Gent. and William Shrimpton of Whitchurch, Southampton, Gent. (Close Rolls, Record Office).

III.

"Louisa, only child of the late Henry Woodgate, Esqr.," married on 31st March 1848, at Brighton, the Hon. John Cranch Walker Vivian, M.P. for Truro, Lord of the Treasury and Permanent Under-Secretary for War.

IV.

1821. June 4. Died at Southborough, near Bromley, Kent, Elizabeth, daughter of the late Henry Woodgate, Esq. Barrister at law.

V.

Marriage Licences.

1603. September 5th. Thomas Woodgate of St. Michael, Lewes, and Joan Stretfelde, daughter of Robert Stretfelde of Speldhurst, virgin.

1618. Francis Quarles, Gent., of Romford, Essex, bachelor, about 26, and Ursula Woodgate of St. Andrew, Holborn, spinster, 17, daughter of John Woodgate of same, Gent., who consents. At St. Andrew, Holborn.

[N.B.—Francis Quarles, the poet, of Lincoln's Inn, born at Stewards and bapt. at Romford 8th May, 1592, d. 8th September, 1644, at St. Vedast's, Foster Lane. He had eighteen children, one of whom, John Quarles, the poet, was born 1624 and died 1665].

1626. November 17th. David Platt, Clerk, Parson of St. Alphage, Canterbury, widower, about 60 years and upwards, and Elizabeth Woodgate of same place, maiden, about 46, at same.

VI.

Thomas Springate, grandson of John Springate of Hawkhurst, married in 1828 the daughter of Mr. Woodgate of Tonbridge, and had issue three sons and six daughters. (*Berry's Pedigrees*).

VII.

Chidingstone Woodgates unidentified.

Baptisms—

1637. Sarah, daughter of John Woodgate, 25th October.

1639. John, son of John Woodgate. 22nd March.

1642. Elizabeth, daughter of John Woodgate, 27th November.

1646. Margaret, daughter of John Woodgate, 7th February.

1651. ———son of John Woodgate. 13th May.

1670. Thomas, son of Robert Woodgate, born 26th February; bapt. 24th March.

1718. Margaret, daughter of William Woodgate and Margaret his wife, born 4th November, bapt. 25th November.

Marriages—

1603. James Parks and Margaret Woodgate. 24th July.
 1638. Thomas Chubb and Hannah Woodgate. 22nd May.

Burials—

1585. Mary Woodgate. 24th April.
 1587. Joseph Woodgate. 12th September.
 1603. Thomas Woodgate. 13th February.
 1658. Thomas, son of William Woodgate. 2nd February.
 1674. John Woodgate's late wife. 12th May.
 1713. Thomas Woodgate of Chidingstone. 19th April.
 1730. Mary Woodgate.

Administration of Elizabeth Woodgate of Chidingstone, deceased, granted 13th July, 1685, to Valentine Hayward, as uncle and lawful guardian ("curator") of Sarah Hayward, minor, niece by a sister, and next of kin of the said Elizabeth Woodgate. Shoreham Peculiars. Also of Joanna Woodgate of Chidingstone, deceased, granted 18th July, 1640, to son Thomas Woodgate.

VIII.

"An account of the ages of all the sons and daurs of Wm. Woodgate Esqre. late of Stonewall in Chidingstone in Kent.

Baptised.			Born.	
13 September	In primis	John,	23 Aug.	1664.
31 July	William	16 July,	66.	
13 Octr.	Henry	27 Sept.,	68.	
24 Octr.	Thos.	12 Octr.,	70.	
13 Novr.	Andrew	6 Novr.,	72.	
	Ricd.	3 Decr.,	74.	
7 Feby.	Sarah	7 Jan.,	77.	
12 Jan.	Robt.	14 Decr.,	79.	
19 Jan.	Stephen	10 Decr.,	81.	
27 Novr.	Robt., secd.	16 Octr.,	83."	

"Children of the Revd. Francis Woodgate.

John, born 17th September, 1735, at 8.

Mary, b. 16th Feb., 1737, at 2 in the afternoon.

Rose, b. 7th October, 1739, a qr. before 12 at night.

Alice, b. 15th Augt. 1741, about 8 at night.

William, b. 6th July, 1743, at half an hour after six in the afternoon.

Stephen, b. 18th April, 1745, at 8 in the morning.

Henry, b. 5th Decr., 1746, at 3 in afternoon.

Sarah, b. 19th April, 1748, between 6 & 7 at night.

Elizabeth, b. 29th Novr. 1750, 40 minutes after 1 in aft.

Ann, b. 11th Augt. 1752, at a qr. after 12 at night.

A still born boy April 25th, 1754, at 9 in the morning.

Frances, b. 15th March, 1756, at half an hour after 3 in the afternoon."

IX.

Nicholas Woodgate, Yeoman Harbinger, advanced to be Gentleman Harbinger in Ordinary to the King "as soon as it shall please God to restore Us that Our Family may be settled." Given at the Court at Breda 22 May 1660, and addressed to the Lord Chamberlain.

Nicholas Woodgate of St. Martin's in the Fields, Esq., died in 1673, leaving everything to Eleanor, his wife, except £5 to his kinsman.

X.

We had prepared a series of pedigrees in tabular form to accompany this work. but at the last moment discovered that the cost of reproduction was prohibitive. We accordingly embodied a great deal of the matter in the footnotes, and have set out below in narrative form the pedigrees of Combridge, Birsty, and Streatfeild. The pedigrees in this work (with the exception of that of Crompe), were printed by Messrs. Mitchell Hughes and Clarke, 140, Wardour Street, W.

PEDIGREE OF COMBRIDGE OF PENSURST.

Combridge of Penshurst m. 17th July, 1 Edward VI at Maidstone, Alice Luck, and had issue

1. *John*, of whom presently.
2. *Robert*, of whom presently.

John Combridge of Penshurst, ancestor of the Combridge's of Walters Green, Penshurst, left issue by Elizabeth his wife (bu. 21st October, 1568).

1. Andrew Combridge, sen., of Chidingstone. Joanna Combridge, his daughter and heiress, m. 5th October, 1602, WILLIAM WOODGATE OF STONEWALL.
2. Francis of Chidingstone, m. 7th July, 1578, Abia, relict of THOMAS WOODGATE, of Watstock, Chidingstone (she remarried Anthony Combridge of Newhouse). Bu. 18th June, 1583. Will dated 4th June, 1583. Left issue
 - (a) Ann, bapt. 1579; bu. 8th January, 1581.
 - (b) William, bapt. 18th February, 1581; bu. 19th February, 1581.
3. Robert of Penshurst, bu. 26th February, 1598. Will dated 21st February, pr. 14th April, 1598; left issue by Elizabeth his wife
 - (a) Robert of Penshurst, m. 15th September, 1614, Anne Cotty, and had issue
 - (i) Robert, bapt. 1615.
 - (ii) Andrew, bapt. 1617.
 - (iii) Anne, bapt. 1623.
 - (b) Elizabeth, bapt. 6th December, 1590.
 - (c) Joan, bapt. 25th October, 1591.
 - (iv) Mary, bapt. 1624.
 - (v) John, bapt. 1628.
 - (vi) Thomas, bapt. 1631.
 - (d) Ann, bapt. 1596.
 - (e) Mary, bapt. 1598.

Robert Combridge, sen. of Coldharbour, Penshurst (son of — Combridge and Alice Luck), m. Joan, daughter and coheiress of Thomas Arnold of Speldhurst; bu. 16th January, 1584. Left issue

1. Anthony of Newhouse, alias Harts, Penshurst, m. Abia, widow and relict of above-named Francis Combridge. s.p.
2. Robert, jun., of Coldharbour, bapt. 1565, d. unm. 30th July, 1590.
3. *Oliver* Combridge of Hawden, otherwise Harden, of whom presently.
4. Katherine, living 1590.
5. *Andrew*, of Coldharbour, of whom presently.

Oliver of Hawden, bapt. 1565; m. Elizabeth, daughter of — Duke of Wadhurst and sister of — Duke of Cosington House. He was bu. 1615, she 1623, leaving issue

1. *Christopher*, of whom presently.
2. Mercie, bapt. 1598; m. William Durnall of Haysden, Leigh, and had issue Anne.
3. Andrew, sen., of Newhouse, s.p., will dated 6th July, 1651.
4. Joan, bapt. 1602.
5. Joan, bapt. 1604.
6. Margaret, bapt. 1606.
7. Susan.
8. Anne, bu. 1661, unm.
9. Elizabeth, m. Lieut. William Beecher of Vexsons, Penshurst.
10. Oliver, of Newhouse, bapt. 1608; m. Elizabeth, daughter of William Luck of Spring Hill. He d. 1673, she 6th April, 1698, leaving issue
 - (a) Oliver of Newhouse, only son, d. unm. 25th December, 1687.
 - (b) Elizabeth m. Gilbert Spencer of Redleaf and d. 1714, leaving issue Robert and Abraham.
 - (c) Mary, m. John Skinner of Sussex, and left issue John.
 - (d) Sarah, m. 1st Robert Chapman of London; 2nd JOELL WOODGATE of Penshurst, and had issue. See Sheet No. III.
 - (e) Anne, b. 1652; m. John Thorpe and d. 1712, leaving issue John Thorpe of Newhouse, and Oliver of Grays who m. Sarah, daughter of John Streatfeild of Penshurst by Sarah his wife, daughter of JOHN WOODGATE of Hever.
 - (f) Susanna, m. Francis Combridge of Penshurst.
 - (g) Margaret of Grays, Penshurst, d. unm. Will pr. 1720.

Christopher Combridge of Harden, bapt. 1595, m. Frances daughter and heiress of Edward Rivers of Leigh and Dorothy his wife; bu. at Penshurst, 1654; and left issue

1. Jane, bapt. 1627.
2. *Oliver*, of whom presently.
3. George of Lyme in Devonshire.
4. Sarah, m. Samuel Rivers of Penshurst.
5. Elizabeth, bapt. 1632.

Oliver Combridge of Hawden, bapt. 1628 ; m. Sarah, daughter of WILLIAM WOODGATE OF TRUGGERS, Chidingstone (marriage settlement dated 23rd June, 1651 ; she married 2ndly Thomas Alexander, Citizen of London). He left issue

1. *Oliver* of Hawden, of whom presently.
2. Andrew of Leigh and of Newhouse, s.p.
3. Elizabeth, m. 1st Underhill of East Grinstead, and 2nd Ford of Tonbridge.

Oliver of Hawden, m. 1672, Dorothy, daughter of Chalton of Penshurst. Will pr. 1690. Left issue

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. Oliver. | 4. Mary. |
| 2. Anne. | 5. Andrew. |
| 3. Christopher. | 6. Gilbert. |

The other son of Robert Combridge of Coldharbour, namely *Andrew of Coldharbour*, bapt. 1567 ; m. Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Streatfeild of Penshurst (her brother Richard married Clemence, daughter of William Luck of Spring Hill), and had issue

1. *Anthony*, of whom presently.
2. Sarah, bapt. 1594, m. Beecher of Penshurst.
3. Elizabeth, bapt. 1596.
4. Mercie, m. Everest of Shoreham.
5. Susan, bapt. 1599 ; m. Mercer of Speldhurst.
6. A daughter who d. in infancy.

Anthony of Coldharbour, m. 1st Anne, daughter and coheir of William Birsty of Chidingstone, and had issue

1. *Francis* of whom presently.
- He m. 2ndly Elizabeth Morgan, and had issue.
2. Anthony of Penshurst, m. Elizabeth, daughter of Boaks.
3. John of Penshurst, s.p.
4. Elizabeth, m. Hawkins of London.
5. Constantine, s.p.

Francis Combridge of Coldharbour, m. 1657, Mary, daughter of Osborne of Chidingstone, and had issue

1. Anthony of Coldharbour, m. Alice, daughter of Hartington of Bodiam (remarried to Couchman or Cushman) and had issue
 - (a) Francis of Coldharbour, will pr. 1728 by Alice Cushman, sole executrix.
 - (b) Thomas.
 - (c) Anne.
2. Mary, m. Philip Seal of Tonbridge.
3. Anna, m. Thomas Eldridge of Sevenoaks, and had issue Mary, Anna, and Elizabeth.
4. Francis of Groombridge, bu. 1711, m. Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Constable.
5. Thomas, living 1728.

N.B.—In the obituary columns of *The Times* of April, 1910, was announced the death of the wife of "Oliver Combridge of Ottawa," Canada.

PEDIGREE OF BIRSTY, ALIAS BIRCHENSTY.

Thomas Birsty, otherwise Birchensty, of Birchensty, Sussex, and of How Green, Hever, Sergeant of Queen Anne of Cleves ; will dated 24th October, 1597, pr. at London 30th January, 1598, by sons Thomas and William, m. Jane daughter of Cotty of Edenbridge, and had issue

1. John of Birchensty, m. Mary daughter of John Comber of Shermanburgh, and had issue
 - (a) Thomas of Birchensty.
 - (b) Ann, d. unm.
 - (c) Mary m. Robert Seyliard of Gabriells, Edenbridge, whose will dated 13th February, 1676. s.p.
2. *Thomas*, second son, of whom presently.
3. William of Chidingstone m. Anne daughter and coheir of John Fremling of Kemsing, widow of Richard Streatfeild of High Street House, Chidingstone. He died 20th May, 1637, bu. at Chidingstone 7th June, administration granted 15th June. Her will pr. 14th August, 1639. Left issue.
 - (a) Anne m. Anthony Combridge of Coldharbour, Penshurst, and had issue.
 - (b) Katherine, m. ante 1639 — Everest.

Thomas Birsty of How Green m. Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Polhill, sister of Sir Thomas Polhill of Wrotham, and had issue

1. Francis.
2. *Thomas*.

Thomas of Howgreen, left issue by Susan his wife (bu. 23rd January, 1661)

1. Thomas of Hever, bapt. 9th June, 1633 ; m. January, 1659, Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. John Pelter, Rector of Hever (bu. 1st September, 1668), and left issue
 - (a) a child, bu. 4th February, 1664.
 - (b) a child, bu. 6th January, 1666.
 - (c) a daughter, bu. 12th January, 1667.

2. Barbara, bu. 3rd October, 1638.
3. Susan, bu. 26th May, 1639.
4. Anne, bapt. 6th September, 1634.
5. Elizabeth, bapt. 18th April, 1841, m. 19th January, 1664, Edward Welby.
6. *Francis*, of whom presently.
7. Mary, bapt. 8th October, 1645, m. 20th July, 1665, JOHN WOODGATE of Hever, and had issue (see p. 495)
8. Ruth, bapt. 7th January, 1648, bu. 4th September, 1657.
9. Sarah, bapt. 11th July, 1652, bu. 17th January, 1654.

Francis Birsty, of Howgreen, bapt. 20th June, 1643, bu. 14th December, 1697. Administration granted 7th May, 1698. Left issue

1. Francis, bapt. 7th October, 1666, d. young.
2. Rose, sole heiress, bapt. 20th December, 1674, m. at Penshurst, 18th January, 1693, JOHN WOODGATE of Summerhill, from whom are descended the Woodgates of that ilk.

PEDIGREE OF STREATFEILD.

Robert Streatfeild of Chidingstone, b. 1514; bu. 16th March, 1558; m. the daughter of Richard Rivers of Chaford Place, Penshurst, sister of Sir John Rivers, Knt., Lord Mayor of London, and of ALICE WOODGATE of Penshurst; he had issue

1. *Henry*, the elder son.
2. Richard of Chested, of whom hereafter.

Henry of High Street House, Chidingstone, bu. 1598; m. Alice, daughter of Henry Moodie, Citizen of London, and had issue

1. Henry, d. in infancy.
2. John, d. in infancy.
3. Elizabeth, m. James Beecher of Penshurst.
4. *Richard*, of whom presently.
5. Margerie, m. John Hollamby.
6. Anne.
7. Agnes.

Richard of High Street House, m. 1583, Anne, daughter and coheir of William Fremling of Kem-sing (who re-married William Birsty of Chidingstone, p. 37), and d. 1601 leaving

1. *Henry*, of whom presently.
2. Margaret, m. Edward Moodie.
3. Silvester, of the Inner Temple, Filacer of Kent, Sussex and Surrey.
4. Thomas of Shoreham, m. Frances, daughter of John Reeve (she remarried John Seyllard of Salmans, see p. 32), and had issue.
 - (a) Francis, m. the daughter and heir of John Shatterden.
 - (b) Jane, m. Edward Taylor.
 - (c) Dorothy, m. Rev. Edward Powell, Rector of Chidingstone.
 - (d) Thomas, d. in his father's lifetime.
 - (e) Margaret.
 - (f) Anne.

Henry of High Street House, b. 1586, m. Susanna, daughter of Christopher Lamb; he d. 1647; she 1648, leaving issue

1. Anne, d. in infancy.
2. Anne m. Thomas Slater, Citizen of London.
3. *Richard*, of whom presently.
4. Stephen, m. Anne Sharpe, and had, among others, Stephen of Somerden Green.
5. William, b. 1620, d. unm.
6. Thomas, b. 1629.

Richard of High Street House, b. 1611; m. 1636, Anne, daughter of William Terry of Wadhurst, and d. 1676, leaving issue

1. Susanna, d. in infancy.
2. Alice, m. WILLIAM WOODGATE OF STONEWALL, High Sheriff of Kent (p. 28).
3. *Henry*, of whom presently.
4. Thomas of Sevenoaks, b. 1649, m. Martha, daughter and heir of Thomas Godwin of Trottescliffe, and had issue
 - (a) Ralph, d. inf.
 - (b) Henry, d. inf.
 - (c) Margaret, d. unm.
 - (d) Martha, m. Charles Polhill, Commissioner of Excise.
 - (e) Thomas of Sevenoaks, b. 1682; m. Philadelphia, daughter of Thomas Fuller of Waldron, Sussex, and had issue
 - (i) (ii) (iii) Philadelphia, Martha, and Sarah, all unm.
 - (iv) Thomas of Sevenoaks, m. Jane Ann Green, and had issue Henry of Sevenoaks, d. 10th February, 1817, aged 37, s.p.; and Catherine Anne, m. 19th February, 1803, Thomas Lightfoot, of Castle Street, Leicester Square.
5. Robert of London, s.p.
6. John of Penshurst, b. 1656; m. 1686, Sarah, daughter of JOHN WOODGATE OF HEVER (p. 496); and d. 1726, leaving issue
 - (i) Sarah, b. 1687; m. 1718 Oliver Thorpe of Newhouse; b. 1684 (p. 499), and had issue.
 - (ii) John Streatfeild of Maidstone, m. Mary, daughter of Edward Pierce, and had issue
 - (iii) Other children.

7. William of Hever Castle, b. 1645 ; d. 1728 ; m. Anne, daughter and coheir of George Martin of Leigh (m. 1760 ; d. 1716), and had issue
 - (i) William of Oxted, Surrey, b. 1677 ; m. 1706, Sarah, daughter of Thomas Whittaker of Trottescliffe, and died s.p. 1734 She d. 1760.
 - (ii) William of Hever Castle ; left issue (amongst others), *Robert* of Hever Castle, of whom presently.
 - (iii) George, of Stoke Newington.

Henry Streatfeild, who re-built High Street House, b. 1639 ; m. 1665, Sarah, daughter and heiress of John Ashdowne, the younger of Hever and Sarah his wife, the relict of JOHN WOODGATE OF STONEWALL (p. 27). He d. 1719, leaving issue

1. *Henry*, of whom presently.
2. William of Burghersh Court, Chidingstone, b. 1680 ; m. 1st Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Cooper, Citizen of London ; and 2nd Elizabeth, daughter of John Rogers of Lenborough. He d. 1724, leaving issue one daughter Sarah who d. in infancy.

Henry Streatfeild of High Street House, b. 1679 ; m. 1704, Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress of Richard Beard of Rottingdean, and d. 1762, leaving issue

1. *Henry*, of whom presently.
2. Richard Beard Streatfeild of the Rocks, Sussex ; b. 1709 ; m. 1738, Mary, only daughter and heiress of John Egles of Copwood and d. 1770, s.p.

Henry Streatfeild of High Street House, b. 1706, m. 1752, Anne Sidney, natural daughter of Jocelyn, 7th Earl of Leicester. He d. 1762, she 1812, leaving issue

1. *Henry*, of whom presently.
2. Richard Thomas of the Rocks, High Sheriff of Sussex, 1798 ; m. 1st Jane Esther, daughter of Admiral Sir Chaloner Ogle, Bart (who died 1796, s.p.) He m. 2ndly Anne daughter of Robert Shuttleworth of Barton Lodge, Lancaster, by whom he became the ancestor of the Streatfeilds of the Rocks.
3. Sophia.
4. Harriet, m. Walter Bracebridge of Atherton Hall and d. 1804, leaving issue.

Henry Streatfeild of High Street House, b. 1757, High Sheriff of Kent, 1792 ; m. 1st 6th June, 1782, at St. George's, Hanover Square, Elizabeth Catherine, daughter of the Very Rev. Newton Ogle, D.D., Dean of Winchester, who d. 1801, leaving issue

1. Henry, of whom presently.
2. Thomas, Lieut. Col. in the Guards.
3. Sidney, Private Secretary to Sir Robert Peel, d. 1823.
4. Richard of Hever, Commander R.N., m. 1824, Anne daughter of HENRY WOODGATE OF RIVERHILL and had issue Ellen Charlotte (p. 278).
5. William, Vicar of East Ham.
6. Charles Ogle, Major-General R.E., m. Katherine, daughter of Rev. J. S. Ogle of Kirkley.
7. Edward.
8. George Newton, d. 1828, unm.
9. Anna, d. at South Park, 5th February, 1830.
10. Sophia Catherine, m. 1822, Rev. Richard Peter Whish, M.A., Prebendary of Wells and Vicar of Birchington ; she d. 1868, leaving issue (among others) William, Commander Royal Indian Navy, m. Frances Amelia, daughter of FRANCIS WOODGATE OF FALCONHURST, Cowden, see Sheet No. V.

11. Arabella, m. 1831, Rev. J. T. Wilgress.
12. Jane Esther, m. Edward Scoones, Major 52nd Regt.
- He m. 2ndly 29th September, 1802, Charlotte, daughter of William Scoones of Tonbridge, and d. in 1829, leaving issue by his second wife
13. Frederick, d. 1829.
14. Robert, d. 1824.
15. John of the Home Office, m. 1845 Catherine, daughter of Henry Sweeting of Godmanchester and left issue (amongst others) Edith Julia, m. ERNEST WOODGATE OF ROCHESTER, see Sheet No. V.
16. Francis Stanier.
17. Emily.

Henry Streatfeild of High Street House, the eldest son, b. 1784 ; m. 1824, Maria daughter of Magens Dorrien-Magens, relict of J. Pepper of Bigod's House, and d. 1852, leaving issue

1. *Henry Dorrien*, of whom presently.
2. Edward Ogle, Capt. 44th Regiment.
3. Newton William, m. Flora, daughter of Rev. W. E. Hoskins, Rector of Chidingstone, and had issue.
4. Richard John of Chested, m. Harriet, daughter of Colonel Henry Armytage, and had issue
5. Frances Charlotte, m. Rev. Henry Onslow Polhill.

Henry Dorrien of High Street House, Capt. 1st Life Guards; b. 1825; m. Marion daughter of Oswald Smith of Blendon Hall; and d. 1889, leaving issue

1. *Henry*, of whom presently.
2. Sidney, m. Lucy daughter of A. H. Jenney, and had issue.
3. Gerald, m. Ida daughter of H. H. Combe of Pierrepont, Farnham.
4. Oswald, m. Hon. Geraldine FitzGerald.
5. Eric, D.S.O., Capt. Gordon Highlanders.
6. Philip, M.V.O., Commander R.N., m. Effie daughter of Colonel Carey, R.A.
7. Violet, m. Lord Henry Neville.
8. Ruby, m. Viscount Colville of Culross.
9. Ivy Marion, m. F. G. Gunnis.

Col. Henry Streatfeild, M.V.O., now of High Street House, m. Lady Florence Beatrice, eldest daughter of the 2nd Earl of Lichfield, and has issue

Henry Sidney John, Lieut. Grenadier Guards, m. Dorothy, daughter of Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart.

Richard Streatfeild of Chested, younger son of Robert Streatfeild of Chidingstone, had issue by Margery his first wife (bu. 1565)

1. Richard of Penshurst and Westerham, b. 1563, m. Clemence, relict of William Luck (by whom she left issue), and d. 1606, leaving
Thomas of Leigh and Westerham b. 1600; d. 1654, left issue by Mary his wife
(a) Robert of Westerham, who left issue by Cicely Collins, his second wife, Elizabeth (who died young), and *Barbara*, his heiress, married to Robert Streatfeild of Delaware, see below.
(b) Richard (c) John.
(d) Edward. (e) William.

He married secondly in 1566 Elizabeth Laundry, widow, and d. 4th December, 1584, leaving issue

2. Elizabeth, d. inf.
3. Bennett, d. inf.
4. *Robert*, of whom presently.
5. Sarah.
6. Elizabeth, m. Andrew Combridge of Coldharbour.

Robert Streatfeild of Chested, b. 1571 m. Susan daughter of William Everest, and d. 1657, leaving

1. Elizabeth, m. George Children.
2. Susan, m. John Cripps.
3. Richard of Chested, d. 1679, unm. (p. 29).
4. Anne.
5. Maria.
6. *Robert*, of whom presently.
7. Sarah, m. JOHN WOODGATE OF STONEWALL and had issue (p. 24).
8. Obedience, m. George Leigh.

Robert Streatfeild of Cransted, b. 1608, m. 1636, Sarah daughter of WILLIAM WOODGATE OF STONEWALL (p. 24). He d. 1654, she 1681, leaving issue

1. Robert, b. 1640.
2. Richard of Ford Place, ancestor of Streatfeilds of Otford.
3. Thomas of Vexson, Penshurst, ancestor of Streatfeilds of Walters Green.
4. Sarah, m. Richard Goodhugh, of Tonbridge High Sheriff of Kent in 1697, and had issue (amongst others) Sarah m. DANIEL WOODGATE OF STONEPIT, Seal (p. 492).
5. Joan, m. 1st Nicholas Piggott, 2nd William Baker.
6. Susan,
7. *William*.

William Streatfeild of Delaware b. 1636, m. 1st 1662, Elizabeth Stanford, who d. 1676, leaving issue

1. *Robert*, of whom presently.

He m. 2ndly in 1676, Dorothy, relict of Stanford, who d. 1679; he d. 1706, leaving

2. Richard of Cowden, had issue by Mary his first wife (who d. 1708) William, d. young; and by Jane, daughter of Anthony Stapely of Turnham, his second wife (who d. 1720) Richard d. young. He died s.p. 1729.

Robert Streatfeild of Delaware, m. 1689, Barbara, daughter and heiress of Robert Streatfeild of Westerham, as above, and d. 1744, leaving

1. Robert of Delaware, b. 1696, m. Mary, daughter and heir of Richard Still of Cowden, relict of Thomas Dyke of Burwash and d. 1752.
2. *Barbara*, of whom presently.
3. Elizabeth, d. unm.

Barbara Streatfeild, ultimately heiress, married 1713, Robert Streatfeild of Hever Castle (see above), who was b. 1684 and d. 1741. She d. 1771 leaving

1. William of Hever Castle, b. 1717; m. 1761, Sarah daughter and ultimately heiress of Oliver Thorpe of Newhouse, Penshurst, and had issue
 - (a) Robert, d. inf.
 - (b) William d. inf.
 - (c) William of Holden House, Tonbridge, Cornet in the Tonbridge Troop of Yeomanry (p. 333), b. 1756; d. 1798, s.p.
2. Robert of Wandsworth, of whom presently.
3. Thomas of Stoke Newington, d. 1792, s.p.v.

Robert Streatfeild of Wandsworth, b. 1722; m. 1748, Anne, daughter and heiress of Samuel Sandeforth and d. 1768 leaving

1. Sandeforth, of whom presently.
2. Anne, m. Clement Strong of Limpsfield, Surrey.
3. Barbara, d. unm. 1843.

Sandeforth of Long Ditton, Surrey, b. 1750; m. Frances, daughter of Thomas Hussey of Ashford and d. 1809 leaving, among other issue

The Rev. Thomas Streatfeild of Charts Edge, Westerham, the eldest son, F.S.A. (p. 436). He was b. 1777, and m. 1stly in 1800 Harriet, daughter and coheiress of Alexander Champlon, who d. 1814, leaving

1. Robert Champion, b. 1804, d. 1829.
2. Thomas Champion, b. 1806; d. 1823.
3. Alexander Champion, Lieut. 2nd Life Guards, d. 1833.
4. William Champion, of whom presently.
5. Edward Champion, b. 1811; d. 1834.
6. Harriet Jane, m. Rev. William Streatfeild, Vicar of East Ham. He d. 1860, she 1837.
7. Frances Maria, m. The Right Rev. Francis Russell Nixon, Bishop of Tasmania and d. 1834.
8. Barbara Ellen, m. 4th October, 1844, Albert Pelly, 4th son of Sir John Henry Pelly, Bart. He d. 1894, she 1898, leaving issue.

He m. 2ndly 30th September, 1832, Clare, daughter of The Rev. Thomas Harvey of Redleafe, Penshurst, and relict of HENRY WOODGATE OF SPRING GROVE (p. 436). He d. 17th May, 1848, she 16th May, 1886, leaving issue

9. Henry Rivers, b. 1826; d. 1831.
10. John Fremlyn, F.R.C.S., b. 14th October, 1828; m. 1868, Georgiana Smith; and d. 18th March, 1886, leaving
 - (a) Thomas of Folkestone, M.D., m. Florence Wilson, and has issue.
 - (b) Austen, d. 1890.
 - (c) Clare, m. 1896, Reginald March, Chamberlain to Her late Majesty.
11. Harvey Sandeforth, b. 1833; d. 1847.
12. Amelia, d. 1830.
13. Clemence Elizabeth, m. 1853, Lord Justice Sir Henry Cotton of Forest Mere, Hants. and d. 1891.

The Rev. William Champion Streatfeild of Charts Edge, eldest surviving son, m. 1832, Hannah, daughter of Joseph Fry of Plashet House, Essex, and d. 1852, leaving (amongst other issue)

The Rev. William Champion Streatfeild, now of Charts Edge, whose eldest son is the Rev. William Champion Streatfeild, Vicar of St. Peter's, St. Leonards on Sea.

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